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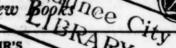
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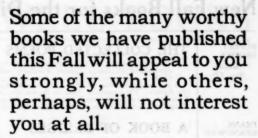
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LIST OF NEW BOOKS

#### THE PUGNACIOUS STYLE.

It is the nature of man to love a good hater; at any rate, a considerable part of mankind pays him the tribute of admiration for the vigor and constancy of his animosity. In like manner the reading world enjoys the aggressive energy and the keen stabs, or sledgehammer blows, of him who writes with the intent of annihilating a foe or exploding a false doctrine; and this in spite of the fact that little of worth in the cause of truth and justice has ever been effected by passionate vehemence of style, no wrong-headed person has ever been bullied into reasonableness, and no enemy has ever been crushed by mere force of vituperation. As is illustrated every week and every day in the heated discussions that in these fevered times claim so much space in our newspapers and magazines, and even in our books, the controversialist falls easily into the error of hurting his cause by undue warmth of manner, and repels by intemperance of speech where he might win by moderation and restraint. If it be true, as experience inclines one to believe, that nobody was ever convinced by argument who was not already more than half persuaded, it is doubly true that no prejudiced person was ever induced by vituperation to renounce his prejudice and alter his opinions.

Intellectual independence is dear to every one of us, and the faintest suspicion that an author is assailing that independence is enough to erect a barrier against the cogency of his reasoning. But if the controversialist can so state his case as to seem to leave his readers entire freedom of choice between acceptance and rejection of his views, he stands a good chance of making converts; and if, employing a somewhat subtler art, he can cause the reader to imagine himself a little more acute or a little more logical than the author, and can tickle him with the illusion of seeing important points that had escaped the other's duller perceptions (though it was just these points that the writer had adopted this artful means of making manifest), then the case is won, and the pleader is willing enough to renounce the glory of victory for its more substantial fruits. But the partisan pamphleteer of these fiery times is prone to begin his polemic by antagonizing the very persons he wishes to conciliate, and so his purpose is often defeated before he has fairly begun his argument. He commonly writes in a lively and spicy and highly readable style, and is therefore followed with immense satisfaction by those who are already on his side, or who are not positively opposed to him. The pugnacious style in itself, such is erring human nature, appeals to most readers when it does not chance to be directed too pointedly and personally against them; it keeps them awake, pleases them with a sense of taking part in laying low an army of stupid or malicious adversaries who needed only this unanswerable demonstration of the matter to induce them to confess the futility of further opposition; and it is delightful to serve the cause of truth and righteousness in this easy fashion, when all that is just and virtuous and noble is so manifestly on our side, and all that is false and wicked and perverse and abominable so evidently on the other.

The immense vogue enjoyed by such contributions to so-called popular science as Professor Haeckel's widely-read solution of "The Riddle of the Universe" is no doubt largely due to the confidently aggressive air with which he exposes the folly of all those philosophers who pretend to see in the scheme of created things some element other than matter and mechanism. How vastly superior one feels to Plato and Emerson and the whole tribe of mystics and dreamers when one has taken a hand with the Jena professor in their demolition and has arrived at the point where one can say with this sturdy foe to every form of transcendental nonsense, "The supreme and all-pervading law of nature, the true and only cosmological law, is, in my opinion, the law of substance," and can regard with him the belief in the soul's immortality as the "highest point of superstition." But what if one happens to be a Platonist and a dreamer to begin with? Will the controversial tone of "The Riddle of the Universe" work a change of heart and win a new convert to the Haeckelian doctrine! Hardly.

A long-recognized master of the pugnaciously vituperative style, and one whom it is an unending delight to read, even though the reader be wise enough not to yield entire assent to what affords him this intellectual refreshment, is found in the author of that history of England which in the middle of the last century rivalled in popularity the novels of Dickens and Thackeray. It has been said of Macaulay's style that it is admirable for almost every purpose but telling the truth. Certainly it is an admirable style to adopt when one wishes not to spoil a good story in the telling. With what an array of rhetorical weapons Macaulay has assailed the luckless monarch who was the last of the Stuarts to sit on the throne of England, all the world knows. His merciless handling of that king's infamous tool, the bloodthirsty chief justice whose name has become synonymous with judicial severity, is almost as notorious. Jeffreys, as we are now warranted in believing, was not absolutely devoid of humanity, though a reading of Macaulay or of Campbell would incline a credulous person to regard him as a veritable monster of malice and cruelty. Mr. H. B. Irving, not many years ago, showed us the man as a human being. When Macaulay. trusting to authorities that have since his time become more or less discredited, speaks of Jeffreys as "constitutionally prone to ignorance and to the angry passions," he is but just beginning the list of the chief justice's evil qualities. In his early practice at the bar of the Old Bailey, "daily conflicts with prostitutes and thieves called out and exercised his powers so effectually that he became the most consummate bully ever known in his profession. All tenderness for the feelings of others, all self-respect, all sense of the becoming were obliterated from his mind. . . The profusion of maledictions and vituperative epithets which composed his vocabulary could hardly have been rivalled in the fish-market or the bear-garden. . . There was a fiendish exultation in the way in which he pronounced sentence on offenders. Their weeping and imploring seemed to titillate him voluptuously; and he loved to scare them into fits by dilating with luxuriant amplification on all the details of what they were to suffer." This lavishing of the historian's wealth of rhetoric upon one who was doubtless equally liberal in airing his vocabulary in the courts of law does not, to say the least, make for somnolence in the reader. As the popular opinion of "Bloody Jeffreys" was already far from complimentary when Macaulay's work appeared, this valiant thwacking of the odious wretch gave untold satisfaction to thousands of readers.

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For vituperative energy, combined with all the resources of erudition and reinforced by the weight of a commanding personality, there is little in our literature to compare with Milton's famous reply, in his "Defense of the People of England," to Salmasius, the noted Leyden professor whose espousal of the cause of Charles I. had stirred the wrath of the Latin Secretary to the Commonwealth. When Milton says of his adversary's work, "I persuaded myself, the extemporary rhymes of some antic jack-pudding may better deserve printing," he is at his mildest; and even when he calls Salmasius "a vain and flashy man," and addresses him as "thou superlative fool," he does not attain the pitch of abuse to which he subsequently lashes himself. But in his very first paragraph he is sufficiently heated to write such sentences as this: "I would advise you not to have so good an opinion of yourself (for nobody else has of you) as to imagine that you are able to speak well upon any subject, who can neither play the part of an orator, nor an historian, nor express yourself in a style that would not be ridiculous even in a lawyer; but like a mountebank's juggler, with big swelling words in your preface, you raised our expectations, as if some mighty matter were to ensue; in which your design was not so much to introduce a true narrative of the king's story, as to make your own empty intended flourishes go off the better." And a little further on he adds: "I will tell you what the matter is with you. In the first place, you find yourself affrighted and astonished at your own monstrous lies; and then you find that empty head of yours not encompassed, but carried round, with so many trifles and fooleries, that you not only now do not, but never did, know what was fit to be spoken, and in what method." This vigorous polemic was written, it is true, in Latin, in which it presents an appearance of perhaps greater seemliness and dignity than in the vernacular rendering; but it illustrates a style no longer in vogue in our controversial literature, though whether it has given place to anything more worthy of admiration may be open to dispute.

An eminent living writer has declared that no one should expect to accomplish anything in literature until he has first ruined his digestion. How much of Carlyle's fame he owes to his dyspepsia, one cannot accurately determine; but his works contain an excess of invective that probably would have had no

place there if he had been a eupeptic person. In all this amazingly fluent and varied and picturesque tirade, however, there is a quality of artistic detachment, of humorous gusto even, without which these atrabilious outpourings would be offensive, or merely wearisome, instead of entertaining and stimulating. In his "Latter-Day Pamphlets," with what wealth of disparaging language the doughty pamphleteer exposes the ineptitude of Downing Street! If he had been born on the west instead of the east side of St. Patrick's Channel he could scarcely have been more uncompromisingly "agin the government" - as may appear from a few random sentences. Concerning the solemn mummeries of the "strange Entities" in Downing Street he says, with characteristic opulence of imagery: "How the tailors clip and sew, in that sublime sweating establishment of theirs, we know not: that the coat they bring us out is the sorrowfulest fantastic mockery of a coat, a mere intricate artistic network of traditions and formalities, an embroiled reticulation made of web-listings and superannuated thrums and tatters, endurable to no grown Nation as a coat, is mournfully clear!" The one invariable attribute of those who are set in high places to govern those beneath them, is stupidity. "For empires or for individuals there is but one class of men to be trembled at; and that is the Stupid Class, the class that cannot see, who alas are they mainly that will not see. A class of mortals under which as administrators, kings, priests, diplomatists, etc., the interests of mankind in every European country have sunk overloaded, as under universal nightmare, near to extinction; and are indeed at this moment convulsively writhing, decided either to throw off the unblessed super-incumbent nightmare, or roll themselves and it to the Abyss."

Among more recent masters of the pugnacious style, one of the most enjoyable to read, and one in whom an irresistible drollery of humor never fails to mask any possible substratum of malevolence, is the author of that spirited defence of Harriet Shelley which was evoked by Dowden's admired biography of this unhappy lady's poet-husband. Mark Twain, when moved to anger by any exhibition of arrogance or inhumanity, was capable of showing himself an antagonist whose pen was to be feared.

Our brilliant and ever-entertaining contemporaries, Mr. Bernard Shaw and Mr. G. K. Chesterton, naturally come to mind in this connection as notable exponents of the literary style here under consideration. Perhaps the dominant note of these two, especially of Mr. Shaw, might be indicated by the misquotation from Pope, "Whatever is, is wrong." The world is all at fault and needs to be scolded and ridiculed and paradoxed into right conduct. Mr. Chesterton's recent vigorous onslaught on the Prussians leaves no doubt as to his mastery of incisiveness. Mr. Shaw's infinity of resource when the perversities and asininities of his fellow-men require castigation at his hands is too well known to call for comment or illustration.

Although little of lasting value is ever accomplished by unbridled vehemence of invective, yet it may be assumed as certain that not until human nature shall cease to be what it now is, and not until the occurrence of a dog-fight in the street shall fail to draw an eager crowd of spectators, will the pugnacious style, as employed by a master of sarcastic vituperation, cease to be accounted an agreeable stimulus to the jaded senses, provided only one be not the conscious object against which this battery of abuse is directed.

PERCY F. BICKNELL.

# FRENCH LITERATURE AND THE WAR. (Special Correspondence of THE DIAL.)

One of the curious consequences of the war has been the suspension, in France at least, of the publication of many books which were on the point of appearing when the cloud burst. Let me give a few examples of this which have come under my personal observation, as they throw a side light, which has many odd reflections, on this terrible conflict.

M. Jean G. Prod'homme, who is one of the best authorities in France on everything connected with music and musicians, has been engaged for several years in bringing out in French, through Delagrave of Paris, the complete prose works of Richard Wagner, based on the German edition prepared by the composer himself between 1870 and 1883. M. Prod'homme's translation was to consist of twelve volumes. "I had corrected the final proofs of the tenth volume, when the war broke out," M. Prod'homme said to me the other day when I met him in uniform—at present everybody in France is a soldier.

"My publisher's printer is established at Lille, which has been in the hands of the Germans from the earliest days of the hostilities, and I often wonder what they have done with our plates. It would be a strange commentary on German culture if hatred of things French should cause the destruction of the only French translation of their great master!"

The same publisher was engaged on a work in two volumes devoted to English and American literature ("Anthologie de la Littérature Anglaise"), whose author, M. André Koszul, is one of the most promising of the younger professors of the English department of the Sorbonne, but who, at the first sound of the guns, threw aside his university gown and donned the uniform of a second lieutenant, only to become a few days later a prisoner in Germany, where he is still in confinement. As though having an intuition of what was to happen, the dedication of the first volume of his work, published a few months before the war, was in these words, in English: "To one by my side, who, with her two little children, has now deserted the cozy Paris home because it is so lonely without him."

The second volume of M. Koszul's work, which is to bring the review from the eighteenth century down to the present day and which is all in type, contains sixty pages devoted to American literature, with extracts from the works of our principal authors, beginning with Franklin, then skipping to Irving and Cooper, and finally coming down to Mark Twain and Mr. Henry James. One of the last communications I had from this brilliant young scholar (who, if he wards off the diseases of the prison camp, will perhaps some day be a worthy successor of Legouis) before he started for the front, was a copy of his brief introduction to the American section of this second volume. A few extracts in translation, here made public for the first time, will be interesting perhaps:

"When one thinks of the formidable growth of the United States, one may say perhaps that soon the English written, read, and most widely spoken will be the English not of England but of America... Thus the literature of the English language is becoming less and less strictly the literature of England. More and more numerous are the writers in English outside of England and who sometimes even have foreign blood in their veins... For the moment, it seems that, after having followed a distinct line of its own, American literature is now much more disposed to fraternize with that of England, and vice versa... The most notable literary movement in the rather confused ensemble is that which accompanied the grand philosophic and religious enfranchisement called

rather pompously Transcendentalism, to which is attached the noble effort of Emerson. [At the beginning of his eareer, M. Koszul made a long and thorough study of the Concord School.] . . . Thanks to money, the universities, the libraries, and the special reviews of the United States are becoming the first in the world. . . America already offers some creations which force themselves on the attention of Europe. In very different ways, Emerson in England and Whitman in Germany exercise perhaps not less influence than does Edgar Poe in France."

What this Poe influence in France is most of us know; but we were to have been reminded of it again, and in a most magisterial fashion, long ere this if the war had not checked, for the moment at least, the demonstration. M. André Fontainas, the Franco-Belgian writer and poet, actually had in type when mobilization began his "La Vie d'Edgar Poe" (Paris: Mercure de France), which will now see the light only when peace comes and which promises to be the most important book yet published in France concerning Poe. M. Fontainas can speak with considerable authority, being an author of established reputation, associated with the early symbolists, whose name has appeared on the title-page of seven volumes of poetry, three novels, and a half-dozen other works devoted to art, biography, the theatre, etc. He is, furthermore, well acquainted with the English language and literature, and has translated into French parts of De Quincey, Keats, and Meredith. Referring to his forthcoming book, "while stricken to the heart's core by the ineffable woes of my misused native land," he writes to me as follows:

"I have based my statements on more reliable and completer documents than those possessed by Baudelaire or Stéphane Mallarmé, to whose memories I dedicate my volume. I have tried to be very impartial, notwithstanding my profound admiration for the grand American poet whose glory is more wide-spread in some European countries than in his native land. I am quite ready to recognize the weaknesses and faults of Edgar Poe on many unfortunate occasions; but the conclusions which I draw therefrom are not marked by the severity,—bias, I am almost led to say,— of Mr. Woodberry."

M. Fontainas concludes that Poe was not an habitual drunkard, or an alcoholist, or a dipsomaniae; and, taking into consideration all the surrounding circumstances, he considers him to have revealed a "really heroic nobility of character." Nor does M. Fontainas accept Mr. Woodberry's version of Poe's ignominious death; and to the accusation that the poet's compositions were conceived "in the fumes of drunkenness and the hallucinations of opium," M. Fontainas opposes the statement that "we have here a

work of the purest kind of thought to be found in imaginative writing, where severe logic often plays a more important part than invention or caprice."

Giving free rein to a resentment common in many literary circles in Europe against a certain puritanical estimate of Poe too often prevalent in our country, M. Fontainas indulges in this criticism:

"Americans have not yet the intuition of what makes, in the opinion of certain English and French poets, artists and critics, the grandeur of their poet. They are too much wrapped up in positive and practical things not to be disconcerted by the singularity of an Edgar Poe or a Walt Whitman. They are shocked by the absence of utility in his work, by the lack of that didactism which he so vehemently attacked. They are not open to what Stedman already praised in him, 'the absolute love of beauty,' and are inclined to see in him only, as Emerson put it, 'the jingleman.' They are all the more ready to accept the existence of his vices because these seem to be the cause of what disconcerts them in his work."

The progress of Mme. Marcelle Tinayre's next novel, "La Route Secrète" (Paris: Calmann Lévy), was also checked by the war. She was in Paris at the moment of the mobilization, and of course was carried off her feet, as were even many of us foreigners, by the magnificent manner in which the superb youth of France swept through the capital to the threatened front. What she then saw and felt, she has described in "Le Départ" (Paris: Calmann Lévy). But she is now at Toulon, in her retreat by the sea, deep in her story again,- which, however, is to be given a turn not contemplated at first, as it will reflect the all-absorbing crisis through which Europe is passing, and which has struck down into this mother's heart in a peculiar way, for her seventeen-year-old boy, "a sculptor in embryo," catching the univer-sal fever, is clamoring "to go too."

And it is this same calamity which contradicts the rumor that has appeared in several English and American literary journals that M. Edmond Rostand is engaged on a new volume of poems. "This is not the moment to try to court the Muses,—at least for a Frenchman. Even war songs should not be inspired now."

Even such a staid writer as M. Salomon Reinach is affected in the same way. The editor of the "Loeb Classical Library," Dr. T. E. Page, asked me, if I chanced to see M. Reinach (who, it will be remembered, gave Mr. Loeb the idea of founding this noble collection), to inquire when they might expect to have the manuscript of the promised "Lucan." M. Reinach's excuse for the delay

was much like the remark of M. Rostand,—
"the war has prevented my getting started."
Another minor preventive, but of quite another sort, also due to the war, will interest American readers, as it is a fresh and rather striking example of the attention which Europe pays to our position in regard to this conflict. M. Reinach, in the midst of his many other tasks, finds time to prepare a series of little unbound volumes, "Voix Américaines" (Paris: Berger-Levrault, 60 centimes each), made up of translations and analyses of the best contributions from American pens about the war appearing in our periodicals and newspapers. Two of these excellent brochures have been issued, and a third is in press.

Nor has the war hampered "The Loeb Library" only in the matter of a delay in the translation of "Pharsalia." Dr. Page writes me: "When I retired four years ago, I was looking forward to rest and some independent work, but Mr. Loeb's enterprise seemed to me so full of generosity and wisdom that I have attended to nothing else, except incidentally; and though at the present time, the work can only be conducted imperfectly, I hope at any rate to see it through these troubled times"; and then, coming down to the more purely clerical side of the labor, he tells we have lost two secretaries who have enlisted, and have only partial use of a girl typist." And from Munich, where the war found him caring for his health, Mr. James Loeb writes: "My own experience proves that in troubled times such as the world is now experiencing, there is no better or more delightful refuge than the Greek and Latin classics afford." So if the war has checked the output of the presses for the moment, it has sent some of us back to the old books that never grow stale; and thus we are enabled to escape the censure of Guizot when he says: "Ceux qui n'ont pas parcouru les études grecques et latines ne seront de toute leur vie que des parvenus en fait d'intelligence.'

THEODORE STANTON.

Paris, September 30, 1915.

#### CASUAL COMMENT.

HIGHER LEARNING AS APPECTED BY THE WAR is the subject of a thoughtful article by President Thwing in the latest number of "The Hibbert Journal." Some readjustments and changes are inevitably taking place in the educational field, and there will be others in the near future; but any serious or permanent arrest of the advancement of learning seems not to be feared by the writer or by those

other observers whom he quotes, though there is likely to be a loss of prestige in certain quarters that might be pointed out by a selfconfident prophet surveying the university world. Certain studies, such as history, diplomacy, and international law, will probably be stimulated, and it may well be that the study of certain modern languages, with their literature, will receive a fresh impetus, perhaps at the expense of a certain other, or others, in a manner not unconnected with the final issue of the struggle. The compilation of opinions presented by Dr. Thwing is found by him to illustrate "several great truths," and foremost among them the following: "It illustrates the intimacy of the ties binding nation to nation. These ties are not simply diplomatic understandings and political alliances. They are also great relationships covering every part of the life of man. No nation can say to another nation, 'I have no need of thee.' The relations are the growth of generations of struggle and of mingled fellowship and enmity. Any breaking of these ties throws each of these relationships out of its proper place. Education among them is thus made to suffer. Its place in the sun is thus obscured, its laws are broken, and its workings interrupted." Woeful is the damage to the things of the higher life, as any writer on the topic chosen by Dr. Thwing must have been forced to admit; but in the very fact that this damage is discerned and deprecated lies hope for ultimate reparation, so far as reparation is possible.

"THE INSECTS' HOMER," as Henri Fabre has often been called, with ascription of the epithet to Victor Hugo's poetic invention, has died at the age of nearly ninety-two. Provence, the country of Mistral, who discovered him in the obscurity and poverty that were almost his lifelong portion, and who procured for him a modest pension from the government, was the scene of his birth and death and the loving study that he devoted to the bees and spiders and other insects. Born of poor and uneducated parents, Fabre struggled with poverty from the beginning and was forced to acquire as best he could the excellent education in natural science that his writings show him to have possessed. Teaching, of the least attractive and poorest-paid sort, was the industry to which he turned for support as soon as he could meet its requirements. The chair of physics at the college of Ajaccio, with a salary of not more than eighteen hundred francs, and, later, a similar position at the Lycée of Avignon, were held by him for a while; but his true vocation was entomological study, with occasional ventures into literature as the poetic interpreter of the insects' habits. His "Souvenirs Entomologiques" embrace the greater part of these reports from the insect world, though shorter studies appeared from time to time in various periodicals. In our own language have been issued a number of works under his name, but compiled with some freedom by others from the body of his writings. Thus he is known to English readers for his "Social Life in the Insect World," "Bramble-Bees and Others," "The Life and Love of the Insect," "The Life of the Fly," "The Life of, the Spider," and "The Mason-Bees." The poetic and imaginative quality of his writing raises him to a place high above all other authornaturalists.

How to be HAPPY THOUGH REJECTED (not as a lover, but as a writer for the magazines) may be learned from an engagingly frank editorial confession to be found in "The Unpopular Review" for the current quarter. After describing, probably with some exaggeration, his nearly uniform unsuccess for twenty years as a would-be contributor to magazines, and after admitting the worldly unwisdom of so lavish an expenditure of stationery and stamps, the editor continues: "But the charm of literary ambition is in its lack of wisdom. One must exercise common-sense in earning the livelihood; in the quiet of the study, with fair paper and an easy pen, one may lock common-sense out of doors. Delightful is it, after a day of compromises, to let one's own notions have play. That conceit, laughed at by nobody, will appeal to the editor, once it is set down with reserve and climax. That bit of eloquence, debarred from the casualness of society, will find its way home in print. Alas, it too comes back to my drawer of rejections, no longer inspiring." But "Writing as a Sport" is the topic in hand, and so it must be remembered that "if sports had not their pains and hardship, they would not be sports." writer even holds that "there is a richer experience in getting a manuscript back than in winning any other game. In no other game may one lose so handsomely." Writing often serves as a safety-valve, and the failure to appear in print does not much matter. "A man who has confided his dearest theories to an editor and promptly got them back is a better neighbor. He is never quite the same man: he is, somehow, vastly improved." Therefore it is urged upon all who have ideas pressing for utterance to "write them down and send them off for print " - or, more likely, for rejection. No malice lurks behind this advice, for, says the writer, "rejection has steadied us and made us more thoughtful. It has lessened conceit, improved the temper, made us more kindly to the race, and turned us to the vital work we can do well. And that is surely the test of sport." After this the editor of "The Unpopular Review" ought to have no idle hours for lack of manuscripts to reject.

. . .

THE POTENCY OF STYLE, in literature, is such that it can often so dazzle the reader as to make him blind to the lack of thought and invention behind it. Naturally no selfrespecting person likes to find himself thus imposed upon, and the bare suspicion of fraud, however unfounded, will not seldom excite hostility against the stylist. One of Mr. Henry James's distinguished contemporaries, himself a writer quite different in manner from the author of "The Golden Bowl," has rather wittily though not with the keenest discernment remarked that Mr. James reminds him of an intelligent elephant vainly trying to pick up a pea that has rolled into the corner of its cage. Is it perhaps some lack of humor in Mr. James that makes it possible to say such a thing about him? Another stylist, of another nation, a poet and romancer very much in the limelight just now, is the author of the "Canzone dei Dardanelli," the Italian patriot for whose capture the Austrian government is said to have offered a reward of twenty thousand crowns, the people's idol at whose feet they prostrate themselves in an eestasy of adoration unmixed with any suspicion that those feet may be of clay. And yet Signor d'Annunzio's critics maintain that there is nothing but style to anything he has written. Is it possible that the mere trick of words, which this brilliant Italian certainly possesses, can raise one to such heights of popular favor? To the winnowing hand of time it can safely be left to determine what else there is in the product of his pen; but even now it is clear enough that one who takes himself with such tremendous seriousness, and in so dramatic a manner, is not exactly rich in the saving grace of humor.

Philological frenzy, together with mania of a less interesting sort, seems to have possessed that asylum inmate who astonished and delighted the late editor of the Oxford Dictionary by sending him, first and last, between five thousand and eight thousand quotations useful in his great work. Dr. W. C. Minor, the eccentric philologist in question, was (or perhaps we should say is) an American surgeon who served in his professional

capacity in our Civil War, became a victim to periodic fits of insanity, shot a man, a stranger to him, in one of these fits, but was acquitted on the grounds of insanity, and was confined in the Broadmoor Criminal Lunatic Asylum, where Dr. Murray, to his intense surprise, found him. In the preface to the Dictionary Dr. Minor's services to that work receive due acknowledgment. In our own experience, si parva licet componere magnis, a certain mad philologist, a frequent sender of unsolicited comments and criticisms upon literary usages of the day, has demonstrated the possibility of retaining a more or less sane interest in scholarly pursuits after sanity in some other respects has departed and confinement in an asylum has been found necessary. In fact, this philological bent has a way of manifesting itself in all sorts of unlikely quarters. No less a celebrity than the present editor of the above-named dictionary, Dr. Henry Bradley (if he will pardon the mention of his name in this connection), began life as clerk in a Sheffield hardware house, with the most meagre sort of school education behind him. Yet he rose rapidly to eminence in his chosen specialty, edited "The Academy" at one time, contributed to that and other leading periodicals, thrice served as President of the Philological Society, was made a Fellow of the British Academy, and achieved many other distinctions in addition to that of being chosen joint editor and then editor-in-chief of the greatest dictionary ever attempted (with success) of any language. If the son of a miller and clerk to a hardware dealer can accomplish these things, who shall say that philological honors are not open to all competitors?

. . . STATISTICS CONCERNING THE BOOK-READING HABIT among our own people are communicated to "The Library Journal" by Mr. E. W. Mumford of the Penn Publishing Company. Whereas the head of the Macmillan Company has deplored, in the pages of "The Atlantic Monthly," what he would have us believe to be a decline in the reading of good books and an increasing resort to frivolous amusements, his Philadelphia contemporary sees unmistakable signs of exactly contrary tendencies. example, the February number of "New York Libraries" reported the free library circulation of books in New York City for the decade ending in 1914 as nearly twelve millions in excess of that for the preceding decade, and the Central Building alone shows a gain in circulation for one year of more than a million, with a gain in the use of reference books amounting to nearly half a million. In Wis-

consin one hundred and thirteen libraries of all sizes show collective gains of about seventy-five per cent in seven years. The city of Washington increased its book-circulation by one hundred and fifty-six per cent in the last decade. And so on. Certainly there is little ground for absolute despair in the present trend, however wide the gap between what is and what ought to be in such matters.

A LEXICOGRAPHER'S LAMENT comes to our attention in the reported utterance of Mr. F. Sturges Allen, General Editor of the famous dictionary that still bears the name of Noah Webster, who has been dead seventy-two years. "It's a strange thing," says Mr. Allen, with that fondness for the good old things of our youth that grows upon us as the years pass, "how the late generations are getting away from the old language, from the old figures of speech. The old simplicity, almost poetry, of nature images is going from ordinary conversation. Slowly, too, it is going from poetry. I don't believe the world to-day could produce a Spenser." Of course not. Each generation speaks its own tongue, and the present age could no more produce a Spenser than his century could have given birth to a Kipling. One may regret, and with good reason, the carelessness, the laxity, one might almost say the irreverence, that are always threatening to make a shapeless wreck of our native language; but the designs of the wreckers never quite succeed, though they always attain a measure of success. A later remark of Mr. Allen's shows that even he is by no means devoid of hope for the future. Asked if he did not detect signs of danger "that the poetical qualities of the race are being rubbed off by machinery, that the poetical qualities may ultimately be lost," he replied with both good sense and a sane optimism: "Oh, bosh! The poetry of life is life itself."

A QUESTIONABLE ECONOMY has begun to show itself in the administration of public libraries in England. It is true that with an income tax of a crown in the pound sterling, and likely to go higher, tax-payers must contribute with diminished zeal toward the support of the local library; but on the other hand the public library provides the least expensive and most wholesome form of popular entertainment that can anywhere be found, and entertainment the people must have, of some sort, war taxes or no war taxes. At the recent meeting of the Library Association (of England) disclosures were made that presaged ill for the immediate future, at

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least, of the public libraries of our British cousins. Current fiction is naturally the first to be struck off from the book-purchasing list, and it is feared that the more expensive of serious publications will follow. This latter retrenchment would be cause for regret, however willingly one might consent to the other reduction. Some more or less disastrous effects from the European war debauch are sure to show themselves in European libraries generally, if not also in our own; for no smallest department of human activity seems wholly exempt.

THE POETIC SERBIANS are presented in very attractive colors to their English allies by the ex-Minister from Serbia to the Court of St. James, Mr. Chedo Miyatovich. He asserts that "of all Slavonic nations the Serbians can legitimately claim to be the most poetical Their language is the richest and the most musical among all the Slavonic languages. The late Professor Morfill, a man who was something of a Panslavist, repeatedly said to me: 'I wish you Serbians, as well as all other Slavonic nations, to join Russia in a political union, but I do not wish you to surrender your beautiful and welldeveloped language to be exchanged for the On one occasion he went even so far as to suggest that the future United States of the Slavs should adopt as their literary and official language the Serbian, as by far the finest and most musical of all the Slavonic tongues." Of somewhat questionable euphony might seem to an outsider a language abounding in such harsh geographical names as the present war has made familiar to our eyes, though not yet to our tongues. Those interested in the Serbs and their capabilities in literature are referred to Mr. W. M. Petrovitch's "Hero Tales and Legends of the Serbians," one of the books of the season, from the preface to which the passage above quoted is taken.

A concession to delinquent book-borrowers might, as a rule, encourage further delinquency. On the other hand, a too rigorous enforcement of the rules relating to fines might drive an impecunious borrower away from the library. Let us call attention to what seems to be a wise exercise of discretion on the part of the Springfield (Mass.) librarian, who reports as follows: "A procedure in the case of children who have had overdue books and failed to pay the fees has been worked out satisfactorily. It seemed undesirable to deprive a child of the use of the library because of his neglect, and yet to remit these fees would discourage children from paying them and lead to consequent carelessness in returning books on time. In occasional instances children have been allowed to balance the charge by giving an equivalent of work in the library, but in more cases the payment of fines by installments has proved beneficial. At least one youngster was heard to announce that he had given up the 'movies' so that he could save the money to redeem his library card."

#### COMMUNICATIONS.

A FEW FACTS ABOUT BRYANT.
(To the Editor of THE DIAL.)

The warfare between facts and poetry, it has been said, is a conflict as irreconcilable as that between science and theology - of which condition there is much evidence to be adduced. items thereof perpetually and uninterruptedly accumulate, and the mass of it is more than mountainous - it forms a world of itself. A very strange world, too - or so such an item as that contributed to THE DIAL of October 14 by Miss Harriet Monroe would give us to believe. As this contribution is, moreover, in the nature of a reply to one of my own, entitled "Bryant and the New Poetry," which previously had appeared in your pages, I will perhaps be allowed sufficient of your space, not to "answer" it but to point out briefly, in justice to the illustrious name that figures so prominently (and to me so very strangely) in its context, some particulars in which it is indeed surprising.

Doubtless it is a much better, a vastly more desirable thing, to be a live "new" poet than a dead great one. For the living bard — or "bardess," as the case may be — can not only write "new" poetry, but can in addition indulge in the pleasant and poetical pastime of belittling if not actually vilifying, of misrepresenting if not deliberately falsifying, not only the poetry but the probity of the mighty dead. And the mighty dead cannot — perhaps rather luckily for the living little — make reply, save as their works, which have lived after them, and the records of their lives (such as are extant), may speak.

Now I have not the slightest disposition to believe that Miss Monroe wishes to be other than fair in her critical estimate of Bryant—which we are all of us at liberty to acclaim or to repudiate as our individual tastes and preferences may prompt. She has chosen to belittle him, that being, doubtless, in her opinion no more than his poetical pretensions deserve. Whether her "placing" of his poetry is correct or not only the reading of that poetry can establish. It, and it alone, can validly speak in its own behalf to those who care to hear.

But it is quite another matter when we come to the facts of Bryant's life, to which Miss Monroe, in her communication above referred to, devotes considerable space, incidentally quoting from an editorial which previously she had contributed to her own magazinelet, "Poetry." I will reproduce a portion of her remarks, as follows:

"In that editorial I told of a publisher's statement that Bryant, toward the end of his long life, used to sell his name, along with his venerable portrait, as the author of books which he neither wrote nor edited, such as 'Bryant's History of the United States' and 'Bryant's Collection of Poetry and Song,' to such an extent that he was known among New York publishers as 'the great national tone-imparter.' . . . .

"This story always comes back to me when I make the detour from Fifth Avenue to see the beautiful rear façade of the New York Public Library. Here a throned figure of the venerable poet faces the park named in his honor, and offers us his life as a high inspiration to American youth. To whose memory was the statue erected—the poet of the Thanatopsis or the 'great national tone-imparter'! If the former, are we not honoring too much the man who did his best work at nineteen!—and if the latter, are we not honoring too much the man who sold out!"

Continuing in the same strain, Miss Monroe holds Bryant up to ignominy as an artist who was not "true to his vision"; as one who "preferred to lead a comfortable life and be a good journalist rather than a poet, and so he descended from the serene nobility of Thanatopsis to the puerile pieties of the Hymn to the Sea, The Future Life, The Crowded Street and many other truly orthodox utterances. . Bryant was, in short, a man born to be a poet who sacrified the muse, not to those violent enemies, the flesh and the devil, but to that more insidious one, the world—or, in other words, comfort and respectability." With much more to the same effect, to which the reader can readily refer in your issue of October 14.

Now these would be very damaging assertions if true. But, as it happens, they simply are not true. It was Bryant himself who wrote that "Truth crushed to earth will rise again"; and in the present instance, as regards him, I should like to hold out an assisting hand to Veracity as she arises from beneath the debris where Miss Monroe has inhumed her.

Who was the very vague "publisher" who made the preposterous statement upon which Miss Monroe has based her still more preposterous ones? One would like to know,—for he should write his own romances instead of publishing those written by other people. The allegation that Bryant "sold his name, along with his venerable portrait, as the author of books which he neither wrote nor edited, such as 'Bryant's History of the United States' and 'Bryant's Collection [sic] of Poetry and Song'" is so gross a misstatement as to be absurd. By "Bryant's Collection of Poetry and Song" I take it that Miss Monroe means "The Family Library of Poetry and Song, edited by William Cullen Bryant"; and it also occurs to me that when she is making such serious charges concerning a work she should at least know enough regarding the book itself to be able to quote its title correctly. As for the facts about this work—a work so well known that it has run through many editions—they are as follows: It was originally issued in 1870, and at once became widely popular, the demand for it being so insistent that a new edition, much enlarged, was got

out in 1876, and in 1878 a third one, still again enlarged. It is a copy of this edition which for over twenty years has held an honored place in my library, and turning to it I quote as follows from the "Publisher's Preface":

"Shortly before his death, observing with gratification the great popularity attained by his book and the growing demand for it, Mr. Bryant desired to thoroughly revise the work and make it still more worthy of the public esteem and his own fame. . The enlargement and reconstruction of this work entailed upon Mr. Bryant much labor, in conscientions and thorough revision of all material,— cancelling, inserting, suggesting, even copying out with his own hand many poems not readily attainable except from his private library—in short, giving the work not only the sanction of his widely honored name, but also the genuine influence of his fine poetic sense, his unquestioned taste, his broad and scholarly acquaintance with literature."

This in itself settles the question regarding whether Bryant really edited his "Library of Poetry and Song" or merely "sold out" his name and portrait to the publishers as an advertising asset. But beyond that we have the lengthy Introduction with the sub-title, "Poets and Poetry of the English Language," written and signed by Bryant for the original edition; as well as the similar preface which he also affixed to the second edition.

So much for one of Miss Monroe's allegations. As for that regarding the second work, "Bryant's Popular History of the United States," concerning which she makes, on the authority of the same unnamed publisher, similar charges,—it dissolves into thin air in the same manner when investigated.

This history (aside from the lengthy signed historical preface) was never claimed to have been written by Bryant. It was in the main the work of Sidney Howard Gay, but there were numerous collaborators, among them writers as well known as Edward Everett Hale, E. L. Burlingame, etc., etc. And the connection of Bryant with the undertaking was very clearly and explicitly set forth in the preface to the second volume in the following terms:

"To the first volume of this History, as well as to this, it is due to say that the oldest living and most distinguished American scholar, whose name it bears, has given to every line—read in proof, before printing—the benefit of his eareful criticism, his ripe judgment and his candid discrimination."

This second volume appeared almost coincidently with the death of the poet, in 1878; and as the two concluding volumes did not come from the press for some time, the final one not until 1882, there was absolutely no chance for any misapprehension regarding Bryant's authorship.

These facts—and they are the unimpeschable ones—reveal pretty fully, I think, the grotesque nature of Miss Monroe's remarks, and the totally unwarranted character of her allegations regarding the "man who sold out."

Let us now glance briefly at her further accusation that Bryant "sacrificed the muse to the world, or, in other words, to comfort and respectability."

Bryant was born in 1794. His father was a country doctor in a tiny New England village, a man altogether admirable but without "an eye to the main chance." He was always in straitened circumstances to the day of his death, and his family found the most rigid economy a necessity, while his sons were forced to enter the struggle with the world with no resources except such as those which the force of heredity and the best up-bringing that their parents found it possible to provide had endowed them with. William Cullen, as Miss Monroe truly says, "was born a poet." But he was also born a human being, with the necessity of food, clothes, love, and a fireside. He first tried the law, and drilled away at it for a number of years. In his own words, at a time when his poetic genius was clamoring for utterance (the era of "Thanatopsis," "To a Water-fowl," "Fairest of the Rural Maids," "Summer Wind," "A Forest Hymn"), and

"Each gaze at the glories of earth, sky and ocean To my kindled emotions was wind over flame,"

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"Forced to drudge for the dregs of men
And scrawl strange words with the barbarous pen."

The struggle was a severe one—and it was complicated by his early marriage and growing family. It was as impossible for a penniless New Englander to live by poetry alone, to say nothing of supporting a wife and family, in the United States of 1825 (or for many years afterward) as it is for a bee to gather honey from hornblende. "Thanatopsis" was written in 1811, the "Waterfowl" in 1815. The one waited seven years, the other four, for publication, finally appearing in 1818 in the "North American Review" (then an obscure literary bantling), to which Bryant's father, who had found them in his son's desk, had sent them without the latter's knowledge. Their author received no payment for them; and when, three years later, their publication having caused him to be hailed as the first great American poet, he issued his first volume of verses, what was the result? Why, five years after its publication he had realized net profits, from the sales, of precisely \$14.92!

Finally, in 1825, Bryant took a desperate step. He recognized that his vocation was literature, and that the only place in which its practice would yield him a livelihood was New York City; so there he removed, as, in his own phrase, "a literary adventurer." Previous to this time, as a poet, he had been receiving the princely stipend of \$200 a year for contributing to the "U. S. Literary Gazette" not less than one hundred lines of poetry each month. Miss Monroe can "figure it out for her herself," if she wishes to, as a problem alike in poetical stimuli and domestic economy. At the same time Bryant sold his poems, wherever a market offered, for two dollars apiece!

In New York, leaving his family in the country, he grubbed along as best he might, and was having a bitter time of it financially, until at last chance threw in his way an associate editorship of the "Evening Post," which he accepted as one ship-wrecked does a friendly sail. It proved the turn-

ing point of his fortunes; but he had yet "a hard row to hoe." The paper was not then strongly established, and its value was small—so small that four years later he was able to buy a controlling interest in it for \$2,000, which he borrowed for the purpose. This was in 1829. Eight years later he thought it safe to undertake the European tour which he had long dreamed of; but returned to find that mismanagement during his absence had been such as to force him to go deeply into debt to straighten out the tangle, and to bind himself to the wheel again—like "a draught horse harnessed to a drag," as he expressed it.

This is an outline of the manner in which Bryant, to quote the language of Miss Monroe, "sacrificed the muse to the world" - and "sold out" his "name and venerable portrait" to promote publications sailing under false colors in his old age. I do not offer this outline on the authority of some nameless New York publisher, but as attested historical fact of which the proofs are all of record. Unless all credible witnesses are at fault, if ever there was a poet whose personal probity was irreproachable that poet was William Cullen Bryant. If ever there was a poet who had a higher or more dignified conception of the nobility and sacredness of poetry and the practice thereof or held more steadfastly to that conception throughout his life, I have never heard of him. And, habituated as I have become to the reckless assaults which the "new" poetry makes upon the poetry of the past, it has been with a feeling not so much of surprise as of pain that I have found it necessary to thus come to the defence of one whose name and whose fame, alike as a poet and as a man, should be a precious heritage to all the generations of Americans who shall come after him. JOHN L. HERVEY.

Chicago, Oct. 22, 1915.

# VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND CITIZENSHIP. (To the Editor of The Dial.)

I wonder if the "vocation of enlightened citizenship" and "other vocations" are really such extremes as Dr. Showerman suggests in his article published in your issue of Sept. 30. I wonder if the ultimate end of liberal education is only the production of the ideal citizen and the ideal State. It is not conceded by all intellectual experts and educators that the State is the final end of life, or that citizenship is the only aim of education. The fundamental principle of democracy repudiates the assumption that the State is the end of education.

That some business and professional men are handicapped by an incomplete knowledge of fundamentals cannot be denied. But that the handicap is due to an incomplete liberal education is an assertion not substantiated by the facts. It is true we have too many stenographers and printers and proofreaders who cannot be trusted with spelling, punctuation, and composition. It may be noted, however, that if these inefficient workers had enjoyed the benefits of vocational training instead of being bored by following the

dubiously helpful labyrinths of Latin conjugations and other dead high-school inheritances, they would know how to spell, to punctuate, and to write compositions. Had they been taught spelling, punctuation, and composition in a vocational class, organized for the definite purpose of preparing them for the occupations they were to pursue, instead of learning these branches in the dry, helpless, uninteresting method of the ordinary English class organized for an indefinite use in a still more indefinite future, there probably would be no occasion for this criticism. It is true that we have reporters, editors, and writers who use slip-shod English; it is true that many teachers are inefficient; and that numerous lawyers, physicians, and other professional men need ful-ness and rounding. But these defects can be remedied only by improving vocational training, not by inflating an already hazy education that leaves the victim of it hanging helpless in the air.

Dr. Showerman's article leaves the impression that vocational training is not liberal or cultural. It cannot be denied that some vocational training is based on this lamentable principle. Usually the aim of cultural education is the cultivation of mental power and the acquisition of knowledge. A well-regulated vocational school teaching a balanced curriculum can accomplish this. It is not proved that a liberal education is the only means to secure mental power. It requires as much mental effort, as much hard thought, to assemble a gasoline motor as to assemble the dry bones of a dead language into a useless sentence or para-graph or composition. Moreover, in assembling a gasoline motor, or in making a table, or in baking a loaf of bread, we are learning something of the real everyday body of useful knowledge which is needed to turn the wheels of life. Vocational training supplemented by proper liberalizing studies can accomplish more than a liberal education so called. The refinement of intellectual and spiritual temper need not be lost. The perceptions may be deepened, and the vision broadened, by a curriculum that judiciously embodies the liberalizing and spiritualizing elements of the old system with the usefulness of the new.

After all, the day of poorly trained lawyers, preachers, and physicians, together with the attendant hosts in other professions, is rapidly passing. Yesterday, the day of liberal education, produced medical men whose education consisted of a year's study with a country practitioner. The long-suffering public then became the victims of his ignorance. It was during the régime of liberal education that a prospective lawyer could read a few law-books and pass the bar-examination. It was also during this régime that the preacher with an unspeakable theology and the questionable diploma of an indefinite something misnamed a "call," undertook the elevation of morals and religion. The tendency and influence of the new education resulted in legislation that eliminated the first two, and inspired a public opinion that is fast exterminating the third.

Liberal education need not oppose vocational training. They may be made logical coördinates. We must preserve certain elements of both and discard others. Moreover, we must remember that the individual as well as the State must benefit by our system of education. On its social side, education aims at the preservation of the State; on its individual side, it aims to produce rounded as well as thoroughly equipped men and women.

Let us not forget, however, that good citizenship is secured only when the individual is fitted to do his particular work. When we have cultivated mental power, broadened our vision, deepened our perceptions, and refined the intellectual and spiritual temper, we still fall short of fulfilling the duties of citizenship. We have hitched the horse only partly to the wagon. Citizenship implies efficiency to fill our place in the scheme of civil and social affairs,—in other words, to accomplish with the skill that comes from special training, the work society gives us to do. To complete the figure, we must hitch to the cross-piece both tugs that draw the wagon. The great vocation needs both types of learning.

Londonville, Ohio, Oct. 15, 1915.

# THE GERMAN WAR BOOK AGAIN. (To the Editor of The Dial.)

Mr. Tannenbaum's somewhat acrimonious letter (in your issue of Sept. 30) on my review of "The War Book of the German General Staff" (issue of Sept. 2) might be allowed to pass harmlessly into oblivion, were it not that it ignores in an astonishing way a point which the reviewer had thought would be manifest to all. Mr. Tannenbaum asks, "Since when is the doctrine that necessity knows no law a German doctrine?" The answer is obvious: since August 4, 1914, when the German Chancellor proclaimed it unqualifiedly in the Reichstag. Speaking of the invasion of Belgium, von Bethmann-Hollweg said on that occasion: "We are now in a state of necessity, and necessity knows no law." A little reflection will show that the doctrine is not synonymous with self-defence, as your correspondent seems to assume, but is a negative and euphemistic form of "might makes right." Human frailty, which is not confined to Germany, has made use of the plea in all ages and climes to cloak injustice, but the reviewer is not aware that any modern state save the present Imperial German Government has ever deliberately emblazoned that device on its escutcheon.

As to charges of unfairness (and even of false-hood!) the reviewer would like to assure the readers of The Dial that the text of the War Book was reproduced literally in the two quotations. A score or more of other passages might have been cited with almost equal appositeness. The German General Staff speaks for itself in this book, and he who runs may read.

For the rest it might be pointed out that Mr. Tannenbaum's comparison of the German War Book with the American Naval War Code breaks down in various ways. The regularly sanctioned usages of naval warfare differ from those of land warfare in certain important respects, as the na-

ture of things requires. A careful scrutiny of the two passages discloses also such differences of expression and implication in the American statement as will render probable a difference in the conduct of officers and men. The American navy, we are fain to think, would not be guilty of a "Lusitania" massacre. But the real heart of the matter is that the tu quoque or "you're another" argument, so liberally employed by Mr. Tannenbaum and other German apologists, is both ethically untenable and practically futile. American indignation at the violation of Belgium, for example, not only should not but also will not be quenched by a reminder that America has maltreated the Indians in the past. And it is well that this is so; if that form of argument were accepted as effectually silencing an opponent, all moral proposation would cease and consequently all moral progress would be estopped.

Oct. 16, 1915.

THE REVIEWER.

# DR. VIZETELLY AND DIPHTHONGS. (To the Editor of THE DIAL.)

May I call attention to a confusion of terms to be found on pages 290-291 of Dr. Frank H. Vizetelly's "Essentials of English Speech" which escaped the comment of your reviewer. He says:

"We have been told that six of the symbols in the National Education Association alphabet are 'consonants replacing our present symbols,' which 'is undesirable since the sounds to be represented are clearly and adequately shown by our present letters.' This is not so—our present letters do not show the diphthongal characters of ch, sh, sq, th, and zh. The Committee of the National Education Association recommended the use of ties in certain of these symbols purposely to bring out this very diphthongal character. The amateur philologist, who declares these undesirable, even though he may have sat at the feet of the great professors of languages in the universities of Europe, simply shows colossal ignorance as regards these digraphs. Every one of the great dictionaries has decided that the sound of these letters is diphthongal."

Dr. Vizetelly then goes on to quote from the late Dr. William T. Harris to the effect that ch is diphthongal, "a combination of t and sh." This, of course, is true, and it is a fact which the N. E. A. alphabet does not in the least bring out by tying a c and an h together in a digraph. But what can Dr. Vizetelly mean when he calls sh, ng, th, and sh diphthongal, and says that "every one of the great dictionaries" has so decided?

On the contrary, there is no dictionary in English, no authoritative phonetic statement in or out of a dictionary, which has not decided the direct reverse,—that is, that the four sounds mentioned (really five, since th stands for two different consonants) are monophthongs. Selecting the one consonantal diphthong out of the group of five (or six), and quoting Dr. Harris to prove that it is a consonantal diphthong, does not prove anything regarding the others, which are single sounds, sh the voiceless and zh the voiced open point teeth consonants of Mr. Sweet,—th as in "thin" the voiceless, and th as in "then" the voiced open blade point consonants of the same

authority, and ng his voiced back nasal consonant. The New English Dictionary gives them each a single character to that end, and there is no dissenting voice among phoneticians anywhere. Will Dr. Vizetelly explain why he uses the term "colossal ignorance" of others in this connection?

Chicago, Oct. 18, 1915.

WALLACE RICE.

# THE AUTHOR OF "SANINE." (To the Editor of THE DIAL.)

I am surprised that the Russian author Michael Artzibashef (he is really an admixture of five races) should be regarded as a so-called "prophet of pessimism," when he distinctly says that in his view the outlook of any student of humanity is liable to continual change. "Each day, each hour even," he says, "has its message for us."

It appears so plain to me that, while he is acutely sensible of the unfortunate environment of thousands of human beings, and to what appears to be the injustice of their fate, he is only portraying a few individuals of the millions—or billions—or humanity. He has also said (in "Sanine") that no one can get a right conception of life from books. I observe also that his critics are prone to mistake the sentiments he attributes to the passing emotions of his characters for his own opinions and beliefs, which is deplorable; and the liability to such misconstruction is accentuated in the translation of his writings.

It is gratifying, however, to find his American critics as a unit in recognizing the fact that he is essentially clean-minded. The character of Sanine, though a puzzle to some of the critics, is intended to show that no man can be sure of himself in the toils of temptation. And here he also presents one of the awful facts in life,—the paralyzing power of a dominant will, call it hypnotism, mesmerism, or what you please.

Some things that I have not seen commented upon (or only very lightly touched) are his admirable restraint and his remarkable gift of word painting. He has told of his grief at not being able to devote his life to painting upon canvas; but he possesses the great gift of handling words as colors, and his books are worth reading for this alone. We also observe his extreme sensitiveness to sounds and odors, his love of music, and his response to the tones of the speaking voice. Not the slightest sigh of the breeze or tremor of the leaves escapes him.

Chicago, Oct. 20, 1915.

A PROPOSED TESTIMONIAL TO MR. STEPHEN PHILLIPS.

(To the Editor of THE DIAL.)

There are in the United States so many admirers of Mr. Stephen Phillips that I hope you will allow me through your columns to ask them to communicate with me, the publisher of "The Poetry Review" (of which Mr. Phillips is editor), with a view to joining in a practical expression of recognition and appreciation of his genius.

ERSKINE MACDONALD.

16 Featherstone Buildings, Holborn, London, W. C., England.

### The New Books.

# RECOLLECTIONS OF A PUBLISHER AND MAN OF ACTION.\*

The activities of Mr. George Haven Putnam have been so multifarious that it is difficult to pick out the central strand of his life. As a publisher, as a sort of unofficial agent to preserve the intellectual comity of England and the United States, as a worker for Civic Reform, as Secretary of the International Copyright League, he has done a full stint of work, and may be said to be coming home to-day, "bringing his sheaves with him."

The first instalment of Mr. Putnam's autobiography, published early last year under the title "Memories of My Youth," brought the narrative of the author's life to the completion of his twenty-first year and the close of the Civil War. The volume now published, "Memories of a Publisher," deals with the ensuing half century of time. It is mainly a bundle of little essays—sketches in biography of some of the remarkable personalities with whom the author has come into contact.

"Hands across the sea" has been one of the mottoes of Mr. Putnam's life, and some of the pleasantest chapters of his book are what might be termed a cross-section of the intellectual life of England as represented at the great universities. Many of the dignitaries and scholars of Oxford and Cambridge are the subjects of illuminating sketches. The dons seem to have put off their donnishness in Mr. Putnam's company, and become really human. In this connection, it may be noted that he has repaid his hosts by a strong advocacy of their cause in the present crisis. In the appendix to this book are collected the strong letters he has written to the public prints about the causes and conduct of the war. In particular he has repudiated, most earnestly, any possible parallel between the acts of the Union army and the German atrocities in Belgium.

We fancy that Mr. Putnam's preference is rather for action and men of affairs than for thought and purely literary people. His own first choice of a profession was forestry, and he gave three years of his early life to soldiering. It is natural, therefore, that the tree should take the inclination of the twig. He has always been associated with fighters and reformers in public affairs, and indeed puts forth a claim to having been the original "mugwump." There is much intimate report

in these pages of Carl Schurz, Grover Cleveland, William H. Baldwin, Henry Villard, Roger A. Pryor, Joseph H. Choate, and many other leaders of opinion.

Mr. Putnam's prose is always easy and limpid, and sometimes sparkling. Here is a passage describing the launching of a celebrated leviathan of fiction:

"One afternoon, some time in the winter of 1880, just as I was preparing to close my desk, a young lady and her father came in, the latter burdened with an enormous package of manuscript. The daughter was about twenty, and admitted that this was her first attempt at literary production. The father did most of the talking, but his statement that the story that his daughter had pro-duced was certain to attract widespread attention was a word that is listened to so often in a publishing office that it did not impress me very seriously. I could only dismiss my callers with the word that the manuscript would receive careful attention. The great amount of the material, the admitted inexperience of the author, even the detail that the script had been written, not in ink but in pencil and on yellow instead of white sheets, gave a pretty strong impression against the probability that the story possessed any publishing importance. I put a few of the first chapters into my bag and began the reading rather late in the evening when I had gotten through with other matters. I found myself annoyed, notwithstanding the troublesome strain on my eyes from the pencil script, that I had not brought home more chapters. The old man was right in his contention that the manuscript would attract at once the attention of the reader, for the book was the famous 'Leavenworth Case,' and the murder, the solution of which constitutes the problem of the story, occurs in the second chapter. The narrative was absorbing, but its exceptional compass made it difficult, if not impossible, to manage on ordinary publishing lines. As first written 'The Leavenworth Case' contained about 200,000 words. In arranging for another call from the father and daughter, I expressed my cordial interest and at the same time pointed out the difficulty from a business point of view in the management of such an elephant of a romance. With a good deal of protest Miss Green accepted the task of eliminating certain portions of the narrative, but it was as if she had undertaken to cut up a baby. Twice did the manuscript go back for curtailment, but as finally printed the volume still contained 160,000 words."

There is less in Mr. Putnam's book about the publishing enterprises of his firm than might be expected. Considerable space is devoted to an account of the publication of the series of "Writings of the Fathers of the Republic," which may fairly be called among the major undertakings of the kind in this country. It covers the writings of Washington, Franklin, Hamilton, Madison, Monroe, Samuel Adams, George Mason, Thomas Paine,

<sup>\*</sup> MEMORIES OF A PUBLISHER. By George Haven Putnam, Litt.D. With portrait. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons.

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and Lincoln. Later the firm published the "International Series," the "International Science Series," the "Story of the Nations" series, and the "Heroes of the Nations" series.

Mr. Putnam has issued a fair shelf-full of books of his own. In 1893 he brought out "Authors and Their Public in Ancient Times," a work which, though based on German scholarship, is valuable because it covers ground hardly touched upon in English. Later, he added a study of "Books and Their Makers in the Middle Ages," which is largely an investigation as to how far the Church, with its two sets of Indexes, Prohibitory and Expurgatory, interfered with authorship and publication in Europe. In 1909 there appeared from his pen a biographical study of Lincoln. An illustrated frivolity entitled "The Gingerbread Man" has had something of a popular success. The memoir of his father and the two volumes of his own "Memories" complete the tale of Mr. Putnam's contributions to literature.

We have left to the last what many people will consider Mr. Putnam's most important service. He inherited from his father the interest in and the lion's share of the work of furthering International Copyright. two of them seem to have borne the brunt of the fight for this important reform. As he points out, the wrongs were not all on one side. English publishers were just as free in "conveying" anything they wanted from American writers as our pirates were in dealing with English publications,-only they did not want so much. The whole question of copyright is still on an unsubstantial and illogical basis. If any property at all is sacred it would seem to be those estates that writers conjure up out of their own minds. However, for the considerable protection thus far secured, authors both in this country and abroad owe much to the self-sacrificing labors of Mr. Putnam and his associates.

CHARLES LEONARD MOORE.

#### THE MAKING OF AMERICA.\*

Each year brings forth a constantly increasing number of special studies in the field of American history. These investigations, some of which are exceedingly careful monographs confined to limited periods, add to the general knowledge of the subject and consequently modify the views of students.

It is therefore desirable that these revised judgments and newly discovered facts should, at more or less regular intervals, be gathered, sifted, weighed, and woven into a restatement of what may be, in essence, an old story. For this reason the authors of the "Riverside History of the United States" have undertaken "to describe in proper proportions and with due emphasis . . the forces, influences, and masterful personalities which have made the country what it is." This is no small task which they have attempted, for the growth of the American people cannot be treated as the simple and steady development of a nation, the various parts of which have been in harmonious accord as to ideals - political, social, economic, or intellectual - and the methods of realizing them. On the contrary, this growth has been an unsteady one, because sectional prejudices have been slow in giving way to national sentiment.

Professor Becker, who contributes the volume on "The Beginnings of the American People," writes from the viewpoint of the student of European history, and for this reason his work is of more than passing interest. He sees the colonies as parts of the European system. His thorough understanding of European political affairs, of social conditions and ideals, and particularly of the economic theory of the age, enables him to set forth in a remarkably clear and compact, but at the same time exceedingly entertaining way, the narrative of the three hundred years with which he deals.

Generally the works on American colonial history which come to the hand of the average reader lack this broader interpretation which is so essential to the proper understanding of the period. It is true that the facts pertaining to the founding of the colonies, their growth, and the development of their institutional life are known, as are the incidents connected with the French occupation of and expulsion from America. So, too, are the issues which developed in the last half of the eighteenth century, and which ended in the severing of our connections with the mothercountry. But they are known from the standpoint of the American colonist. It is by no means damaging to one's Americanism to examine the problems of this period from the standpoint of the British imperialists whom circumstances forced into the position of empire-builders. Viewing questions of policy, as they did, in this light, it is reasonable to assume that their views surpassed in breadth those of many of the colonial leaders of the day, who, hampered by local pre-

<sup>\*</sup>The Riverside History of the United States. Comprising: Beginnings of the American People, by Carl L. Beker; Union and Democracy, by Allen Johnson; Expantan and Comfiet, by William E. Dodd: The New Nation, by Preferic L. Faxson. With maps. Boston: Houghton Miffin Co.

judices, drifted toward provincialism and particularism.

Professor Becker shows clearly that economic theory was at the bottom of the earlier colonial policy of England, as well as the later imperialistic policy. The cardinal doctrine of the age was that to be politically independent a nation must be self-sufficing. In the nation dependent upon rivals for the necessities, not only the prosperity of the trading class was threatened, but the very life of the nation itself. When the English merchants, in the age of Elizabeth, began to bewail the lack of markets, the chartered trading and colonizing companies came into existence. So it appears that the dependence upon foreign countries for various commodities, coupled with the decline of the English export trade, gave rise to the colonizing move-Other influences contributed to the founding of the English plantations in America, but economic causes were of primary importance.

As the colonies grew in commercial and political importance, the English statesmen came to feel more and more strongly that these national investments should be made paying They determined to regulate the commercial and political activities of these small states, not with any idea of limiting their growth or prosperity, but because they believed that through regulation the greatest good would result to the greatest number of English subjects. Thus the numerous regulating acts passed prior to 1765 were attempts to foster the commerce and industries of the whole nation at the expense of foreign countries, and to develop colonial industry along lines which would not come into competition with English industry.

The overthrow of France in the New World brought some weighty problems to England. The latter country became an empire in territorial extent, but in territorial extent only; for it lacked all the administrative machinery necessary for the consolidation and control of a political organism so vast. The attempts to create an administrative system capable of regulating the internal and external relations of this empire were of necessity experimental in character, and were certain to meet with opposition wherever imperial interests ran counter to those of the small and widely scattered political units which heretofore had managed their own affairs according to their own inclinations. To assure a more perfect union, the political system must be overhauled, and any such reorganization would of necessity tend to limit the chartered rights of the American plantations. Any reorganization of the commercial system—something which was demanded by the powerful merchant class now so important in English affairs—was certain to interfere with the profits of the commercial class in the colonies. The enlargement of territorial holdings meant a decided increase in the size of the army; the reorganization of the administrative machinery meant the creation of numerous offices. The increased operating expenses could be met only by heavier taxation, a part of which the colonies would be expected to bear.

Upon these points of imperial policy was based the opposition to the mother-country. One can scarcely deny that from a legal point of view the English statesmen had right upon their side. Lack of tact, however, and a stubborn disregard for the prejudices of the provincials, turned passive resistance into a revolt which rent asunder the imperial state the English lords were trying so earnestly to mould into an indestructible unit.

It is not to be wondered at that the mothercountry could not win the undivided support of the American colonies for her imperialistic policy. The colonies had difficulties in agreeing among themselves on any subject. When it was scarcely possible for Puritan, Angli-can, Calvinist, Quaker, and Catholic to live together in peace in this age of rancorous religious prejudice, it was highly improbable that these elements would gather themselves together into a single state without a decided struggle. Moreover, the geographical environments of these groups were such as would intensify rather than diminish the prejudices of each, since economic differences, so powerful in influencing the formation of political beliefs, were bound to develop. So it was that physiographic conditions, together with certain definite religious and political beliefs, developed a political, social, and economic unit in colonial New England which differed radically from the unit developed in Vir-Communication, except by sea, was well-nigh impossible; and each colony, developing along its own lines, nursing its own prejudices, and exalting its own ideals, strove to become sufficient unto itself. the great agency for the widening of men's minds, had little opportunity to exert its powerful influence upon these isolated bodies politic of seventeenth century America

In the course of events, a common danger from without compelled the colonies to bury their differences long enough to win independence and a place among the nations of the earth. The treatment which Professor Becker accords to the Revolution is not the 8

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one generally set forth for American readers. It is impossible not to receive the impression that even the few successes gained by the poorly organized colonial armies in the early years of the war were due not so much to the patriotism of the American people as to the studied inactivity of the British generals.

"The ministers [of England] had doubtless thought that the policy of conducting the war with the olive branch and the sword in either hand would prove successful. Certainly Howe had so interpreted his instructions. He had fought only when it was necessary to fight; easily accom-plished everything he seriously attempted; never pressed an advantage; had supposed that by occupying the principal cities, affording protection to the loyal, and by moderation winning the lukewarm, the flame of rebellion would burn low for want of fuel and in good time quite flicker out." As it was, the colonial army looked with contempt upon a government which could neither feed nor clothe its soldiers; Congress criticized the army for weakness, and feared it when it threatened to usurp congressional powers. The states wanted to control their own troops and direct their activities; furthermore, they tried to dodge taxes and to leave their quotas unfilled. Here and there a fortunate victory aided the cause of the colonies; the French alliance gave new life to a weakened resistance; but most of all the steadfastness of purpose displayed by Washington brought success to the American cause. Professor Becker's narrative thus differs in several essentials from the version usually accepted.

The second volume of the set, "Union and Democracy," by Professor Johnson, covers the period from 1783 to 1828. The writer treats first the commercial, financial, and political troubles of that unfortunate experiment in government, the Confederation. The formation of the Constitution, the organization of the new national government, and the steps by which this government sought to establish its authority over the states, are portrayed in the orthodox way. The period is interesting and complex; and although the term "criti-cal period" is pretty generally applied to that of the Confederation, the years immediately following the adoption of the Constitution may also lay claim to an importance scarcely less great. Particularism was strong, respect for the national government was slow of growth; party loyalty and factional animosity often obscured the goal toward which the nation moved. The constant and strenuous effort to establish itself as a nation, to protect its subjects, to maintain its rights, and at the same time to avoid being drawn into the general European war which was raging, laid heavy burdens upon those who guided the destinies of the new American State. The unrest of these years was increased by the fact that the parties, divided as they were over the interpretation of the Constitution as to the relative powers of the states and the national government, were also clearly in opposition as to the attitude which America should assume toward the warring powers.

Still another line of development—the occupation of the West-served to complicate the situation. Professor Johnson points out that the "greatest obstacle in the path of the people of the United States in their struggle towards national life was the vastness of the territory which they occupied." The occupation of the trans-Alleghany country was one of the tremendous movements of the period. This was accomplished in the face of the most serious opposition, not only upon the part of the Indians, but of the European nations as well, since each of these hoped by diplomatic intrigues among themselves, with the Indians, and with the settlers in the West, to establish themselves in the Mississippi Valley, and thereby rob the American people of the fruits of the late war. This diplomatic contest for the possession of the West is one of the most fascinating and complex studies in our history.

With the occupation of the West, which was accomplished with astonishing rapidity by the pioneers, a distinctly sectional feeling developed. The antagonism of the back-country farmer of colonial Virginia toward the planter of the tide-water country—which in itself was really class antagonism based upon differences in wealth, social position, and political importance—appeared again in the opposition of the young, provincial, trans-Alleghany West to the older and more conservative East.

The West came into political power in 1811. Urged on by the hatred borne by the western men for the English, whom they held responsible for most of the Indian troubles along the frontier, it carried the nation into the second war with England. As far as land operations were concerned, this war had little in it to which the American could "point with pride." One lesson was not lost on Madison, who, in a special message to Congress in 1815, wrote:

"Experience has taught us that neither the pacific dispositions of the American people nor the pacific character of their political institutions, can altogether exempt them from that strife which appears, beyond the ordinary lot of nations, to be incident to the actual period of the world; and the same faithful monitor demonstrates that a cer-

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tain degree of preparation for war is not only indispensable to avert disaster in the onset, but affords also the best security for the continuance of peace."

The influence of the war was beneficial, however. The nation was released from its close dependence upon Europe, and a favorable peace laid the foundations for the settlement of our differences with Great Britain. There developed, also, a national consciousness which drew attention to such internal problems as the tariff, the bank, internal improvements, and the extension of slavery. During these years, too, came several of the remarkable decisions of Chief Justice Marshall, by which the doctrine of Federal supremacy over the states was first given definite legal form.

The triumph of American democracy came with the election of Jackson. The period from Jackson to Lincoln, during which the nation wrestled with the most important problems it had been called upon so far to solve, has always been one of deep interest. The volume covering this period of "Expansion and Conflict" has the additional attraction of being written by a Southerner. Professor Dodd works upon the assumption that, except in extent of territory which they occupied, the American people did not form a nation until after the close of the Civil War. The assumption seems well founded, since sectional interests undoubtedly were uppermost in the thoughts of all save a few of the most broad-minded leaders.

In this unsettled period the sectional feeling which had existed between the Atlantic states and those beyond the Alleghanies was submerged in a sectionalism much more violent in character, which was determined along lines of latitude instead of longitude. North was a land of towns and small farms; the South a land of plantations, where the problem from the very beginning of the plantation system had been that of labor. Through the introduction of negro slavery, a solution had been reached at an early date. As long as the slave communities had been confined to the Atlantic Plain, the question of the extension of slavery had not been one of great political significance. With the expansion of the slave power, coming after the War of 1812 as the result of the rapid increase in the production of cotton and tobacco, the opponents of the institution became alarmed, and the question grew rapidly in importance until it came to over-shadow and finally to obscure all others. Very naturally the Southern leaders felt that the economic life of the South was dependent largely upon slavery. They could see, too, that sooner or later the rapidly growing North was to outstrip the South in the race for political supremacy, and consequently it was but a question of time until the several branches of the national government would fall into the hands of those hostile to negro servitude. This could mean only one thing: slavery would be declared illegal, and the economic structure of the South would be ruined.

Southern leaders saw two possible ways through which the situation might be controlled. In the first place, the doctrine of strict construction of the Constitution must be rigidly adhered to, and developed still further. This was done most skilfully by the powerful mind of Calhoun; and out of the older doctrine grew the States Rights doctrine, under which slavery in the commonwealths seemed safe. In the second place, the South must keep her representation in the Senate equal to that of the North, which was certain to gain control of the House of Representatives. This could be accomplished by the extension of slavery into the territories, in the hope that when new commonwealths came to seek admission to the Union they would come with constitutions legalizing slavery. vigorous opposition of the North to this policy led the sections into a series of violent controversies which could not be disposed of by compromises. The fact that the territory left open by the Missouri Compromise to the peaceful extension of slavery was decidedly limited in extent undoubtedly influenced the nation's policy of expansion which prevailed in the forties.

This storm and stress period, when the South fought hard for the extension of its power and the protection of its economic and social organization, Professor Dodd treats from the standpoint of the historian, not the partisan. In addition to a clear sketch of the political events of the time, he has found space to give us a glimpse of the economic and social background so necessary to the proper interpretation of these years of unrest. The great personalities under whose leadership the sentiment of either section crystallized are briefly characterized, the greater emphasis being laid, very properly, upon the influence each exerted in moulding the political thought of the time. The chapters on "The Militant South," "The Abolitionists" and "American Culture" will attract attention, as will those on the war itself.

The period from the close of the Civil War to the present time, which Professor Paxson covers in "The New Nation," is, from the standpoint of the average college student at least, the "Dark Ages" of American history. Still it is a period of very decided interest. During the years of Reconstruction, statesmen and politicians alike wrestled with the problem of the status of the seceded commonwealths. An undignified struggle went on between the legislative and executive branches of the government, neither party being certain of its constitutional ground in the matter. In the meantime the South suffered under the rule of the carpet-bagger, which ruined what remained of its civilization, wasted its scanty resources, fastened upon it the rule of an inferior race, and delayed for years the efforts of the planter to rebuild his wrecked economic system. In the end, it was the mysterious Ku Klux Klan and the Knights of the White Camellia, whose ghostly riders struck terror into the hearts of the dusky politicians and rid the South of the hated political adventurers.

During the quarter century after the war the trans-Missouri West was occupied. These are the times of the cattlemen of the Great Plains; of the miners of the Black Hills and Colorado; of Red Cloud, Black Kettle, Crazy Horse, and Chief Joseph; of Custer, Fetterman, and Crook. Whoever loves the romance of the frontier will find something here to interest him. During these years the transcontinental railroads bridged the American Desert, brought about the disappearance of the frontier, and relegated the picturesque

cowboy to the pages of fiction. Our foreign relations during the period are also of much importance. For years after the close of the war there was a decided tendency toward expansion, as is evidenced by the purchase of Alaska and the attempts to obtain the Danish West Indies and San Domingo. The settlement of the Alabama Claims, the Venezuelan question, and our several boundary controversies indicate the beginning of an era of cordial relations with the other great English-speaking people. Our relations with Spain grew more and more strained through these years, until at last we became involved in a war with that nation and emerged from it a world power. Professor Paxson's treatment of this event is certain to attract attention, since it differs radically from the popular accounts usually accepted. To him it appears that Spain was not entirely to blame for the situation which developed; that the Spanish nation made nearly every concession which could reasonably be expected of it; and finally that the yellow" newspapers forced America into a struggle which diplomacy might have averted.

Probably the most interesting part of the volume is that dealing with the economic, social, and political reorganization of the nation which shows itself in the widespread unrest of recent years. New parties have been formed to protest against the reactionary tendencies of the older political organizations, and are demanding radical changes in the administrative system. A conflict is in progress to compel "big business" to conform to the laws of the land. The restraining influence which the judiciary has exercised over state legislatures in their battles with the railroads has brought this branch of our government under closer scrutiny than ever before. There is an undoubted sentiment against the so-called legislation by the judiciary. Labor has organized to protect itself, and is making earnest demands for social and economic justice; the Far West is insisting that its interests be given consideration; the representatives of various powerful industries are urging the national legislature to frame tariff bills consistent with the desires of each. The people have awakened to the value of the nation's natural resources, and earnestly oppose that school of capitalists which supports the doctrine "that all natural resources of the country should be transferred to private hands as speedily as possible, at a nominal charge, or no charge at all."

Many thousands of government documents, monographs, and editorials have appeared treating these questions from every conceivable point of view, and each colored by the sympathies of the writer. By gathering the facts which are important, and presenting them in an orderly way, together with interpretations which are clear cut and consistent with the principles of sound scholarship, Professor Paxson has made a contribution which will be appreciated by those who attempt to grasp the significant things in the development of this exceedingly interesting period.

The "Riverside History" is a good one, but it will be found more serviceable to the reader who has some groundwork in the subject than to him who has none. The treatment of the social and intellectual phases, although brief, is worth while. In some cases, however, it may call forth comments which are not entirely sympathetic. An abundance of really good maps will be an invaluable aid to the reader, as will also be the short bibliographies found at the close of the several chapters. As a piece of bookmaking the series could scarcely be improved upon.

WILLIAM V. POOLEY.

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#### DANTE IN A NEW TRANSLATION.

A new translation of an old classic must expect the keenest criticism, unless it be put forth under private imprint and confessedly as solace or pastime of the translator. Such, however, is not the case with Professor Johnson's rendering of "The Divine Comedy." Emanating from one university and endorsed by another, it challenges comparison with the already existing translations, and should show superiority to most or all of its predecessors. This new translator aims especially at "modern English," at "rhythmical qualities pleasing to the English ear," while holding to a line-for-line version and giving consideration to Dante's words even so far as their place in the sentence. At the same time, he stands for the claim and obligation of the translation to be "a work of art." Yet he alters the feminine endings of the original to masculine,thus, in the absence of rhyme, giving blank

It will be seen that the translator begins with certain inconsistencies in his programme. A reverence for the original which insists on retaining words in their place in the sentence is hardly reconciled with the license to alter the rhyme-plan and the metre of the master. Nor has the former adherence to the original as good grounds as could be urged for a close following of the verse form. In fact, it has very poor grounds, and is altogether impracticable as a working rule. Professor Johnson must have forgotten it before he proceeded very far, for the lines in which the rule is violated are more numerous than those in which it is followed.

The best that may be said of this new version is that it contains not infrequent passages combining great dignity and great simplicity. The following, from Paradise II., may serve as an example of the best:

"O ye, who in a very little bark,
Eager to listen, have been following
Behind my ship that singing makes its way,
Turn back to look again upon your shores;
Put you not out to sea, lest it befall
That, losing me, ye should remain astray.

The water which I take was never sailed;
Minerva breathes, Apollo is my guide,
And Muses nine point out to me the Bears."
Or this, from Canto IX. of the Purgatory:

"It was the hour before the dawn, when first
The swallow sings her melancholy lays,
Perchance in memory of former woes,
And when our mind is more a wanderer
From flesh, and less held captive to our thought,
And in its visions is almost divine."

\* THE DIVINE COMEDY. Translated by Henry Johnson. New Haven: Yale University Press. One could find many passages of from five to ten lines each in which the style is as straightforward and the rhythm as good. But one should not have to seek for them; they are what one has a right to expect.

Unfortunately, the challenges of the undertaking seem to be rather recklessly met, and the promises of the preface are not kept. Clarity and simplicity are often far from our path in this version. Vocabulary and idiom are not always modern. Obscurity and awkwardness mar many passages. Worst of all, the versification is painfully imperfect,—a constant stumbling-block to distract attention from form and thought. Rhythm and clarity suffer alike in such a rendering as this (Inferno, I., 8-9):

"But yet, to treat of the good that I found there, I speak of other things that there I found."

It is not sufficient to urge that the original is sometimes obscure. The translator should see clearly and make clear, especially when he abstains from any and all notes. So in Paradise I., 76-77:

"When the revolving, which Thou longed-for makest

Eternal, drew my thought into itself."

These are merely examples of numerous similar passages which might be cited.

Not obscurity but mere awkwardness of expression is the fault with the following (Inferno IV., 1):

"The deep sleep in my head was broken off By heavy thundering."

We understand at the end of the sentence that thunder roused him from sleep. But certainly the first image from the chief expression is of a sharp instrument "broken off" in the man's head.

A long list of constructions which are neither "modern English" nor manifestations of "the strength and beauty of our own language" could be cited; but the following may serve as typical:

"Like one who listens to some great deceit
That has been done him, and resents it sore,"
Inferno VIII., 22-23.

"San Leo can be reached . . .

With only feet, but here one needs to fly,"

Purg. IV., 27.

"Moving his look only along his thigh,"
Purg. IV., 113.

"But the deep wounds from which Came forth the blood, in which I had my seat," Purg. V., 73-4.

(No, reader, he was not sitting in a pool of blood.)

"Souls

Who for the valley were not seen without,"
Purg. VII., 84.

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"They both from Mary's bosom have come down," Purg. VIII., 37,

"No salutation fair from each to each was silent," Purg. VIII., 56,

(Meaning, "was lacking.")

"So much of wax
As to the enameled summit is required"
Purg. VIII., 114.

"I craved the mercy of his opening,"
Purg. IX., 110,

(Meaning, "I begged him to open it.")

The fact that Longfellow used several of these too literal and awkward translations will scarcely make them more acceptable in a later work.

In addition to the stiffness of style, there is a considerable archaic vocabulary, puzzling to the modern reader. The rendering "St. Lawrence" for "San Lorenzo" takes us quite unnecessarily far from Italy. Is it good English to speak of an "Empress over many languages" when "races" is meant? Is it permissible to locate "mosques" in the city of Dis? Consider in the following the sense of "thrust" and "gall" (Parad. IV., 27-29):

"These are the questions that upon thy will Thrust equally, and therefore I will first Treat of the one that has the more of gall." Or of "seat" in this (Parad. III., 82):

"So that as we exist from seat to seat
Throughout this realm."

Or of this expression (Parad. II., 77):

"As a body Divides the fat and lean."

A curious judgment has led to the translation, in a supplement, of all the Latin phrases in the text, such as suo loco, in exitu Israel de Egypto, miserere, Te Deum laudamus, Agnus Dei, etc. Since all other annotations are dispensed with, it would seem as though the reader of "The Divine Comedy" could be trusted to cope with such small Latin, almost all of it being familiar in the Bible and the church service.

If it was hoped that this translation was to be read for pleasure, alone or in comparison with any of the older versions, the necessary pains should not have been spared to make it scan better, to attain "the rhythmical qualities pleasing to the English ear." It is not merely an occasional line which gives offence, where the excuse might be that fidelity to the text and the line-for-line rendering seemed incompatible with pleasing rhythm. There are hundreds of lines in which an agreeable movement is attainable by the simple transposition of a word or a phrase, giving in most cases a better poetic construction. A few of these will suffice to demonstrate the validity of the

criticism. "I pray, bring me to the memory of men," Inf. VI., 89, (Bring me, I pray thee, to men's memory); "Of wishing to speak with them secretly," Inf. VIII., 87, (Of wishing secretly to speak with them); "That he would tell me who might be with him," Inf. X., 117, (That he would tell me who with him might be).

It is a curious fact that a large number of the bad scansions have evidently been justified by an unwarranted stress on a pronoun. But the most irritating cases are those of which the following is an example (Purg. VII., 7): "I am Virgil; and for no other sin,"—where the simple transposition, "Virgil am I," gives good scansion and a stronger line.

The line, "My ancestors made me so arrogant" (Purg. XI., 62), is doubly defective. It can be scanned only by stressing "me"; and the sense is obscured by the idiom. "My ancestry begot in me such pride" deviates from the phrasing of the original, but it obviates both defects. Yet since the translation deviates from the original anyway, one should at least save rhythm and sense. "The rays were striking us full in the face," which gallops instead of stalks, is easily made into a good iambic line by inversion,—"Full in the face the rays were striking us." So also with "I asked that I might give strength to thy feet," "I went along through air bitter and foul," "Me to Parnassus to drink in its caves," "As it was possible when it lost her," "Thou shalt see me come to thy chosen tree," and scores of other lines, which limp or refuse utterly to go; with the aid of a simple inversion they march properly enough. The very small number of six-stressed lines would be overlooked much more readily than these

It is a disappointment to find the product of so much labor unsatisfactory, and it is painful to give an unfavorable judgment on the serious work of an earnest man. One function Professor Johnson's translation may fairly serve, that of pacing-mate to the Italian text, for one who needs assistance.

W. H. CARRUTH.

#### THE FASCINATION OF JAPANESE PRINTS.\*

The sense of detachment necessary to the formation of an impartial estimate of the worth of a book is made difficult when the book is dedicated to the reviewer, and various complimentary references to him are scattered through its pages. It is with a keen

<sup>\*</sup> CHATS ON JAPANESE PRINTS. By Arthur Davison Ficke. Illustrated in color, etc. New York: Frederick A. Stokes Co.

realization of this disability that the present reviewer ventures to tell the readers of THE DIAL what he thinks of Mr. Ficke's "Chats on Japanese Prints," and he craves their indulgence should what he have to say seem lacking in critical judgment. There is the more need to ask this because the book is of such conspicuous merit as to call for generous

In the forty years or thereabout since the color prints by the Ukiyoe masters first came to the attention of art lovers in Europe and America, the circle of their ardent admirers has steadily widened, and without doubt would be far wider still were there more abundant opportunities for seeing prints of the better class. From the beginning these prints have gone into the portfolios of eager collectors, who were quick to feel their charm and to appreciate their artistic worth, but who have been loath to lend them for exhibition or even to hang them upon their own walls, for they soon learned that extended exposure to light was at the risk of virtual destruction through the fading of the lovely reds and yellows printed in fugitive tints. As for the most precious prints of all, the supreme impressions in perfect preservation of the most distinguished designs by the greatest artists of the school, they are so rare that the number of their possessors at any time can never be more than a very few.

Although the collector's prizes are so scarce as to make the search for them an exciting pursuit, with the hope ever present to give it zest that some wonderful hidden stores may yet be discovered, the number of prints of a little less distinction, but still of great beauty, is very large, and these have found their way into many hands. And while opportunities for seeing the finer prints have been restricted, they have not been altogether lacking. Some very good prints have been acquired by museums and public libraries in Europe and America, where they are accessible to all who apply; important exhibitions have been held in Paris, London, New York, and Chicago, and smaller ones in other cities; and everywhere collectors have been generous in showing their treasures privately.

With increasing interest has come desire r information. This the books hitherto for information. available very imperfectly supply. The need has been for a compact and readable work, which, while giving the historical facts so far as they are known, should emphasize the æsthetic charm of the prints and make clear the soundness of the conception upon which it rests. Such a book Mr. Ficke has now given us. It opens with a "Preliminary Survey" in which the claims of Far Eastern art are admirably presented. Then the inception, development, and decay of the Ukiyoe School are passed in review, all of the more important artists being taken up in turn and the strong and weak points in their works put before the reader in nicely discriminating phrase. Throughout, the aim is to set forth the distinctive qualities that to the discerning mind make the prints "a unique source of repose and exaltation." A few sentences from the introductory chapter will show how vividly the right point of view is put forward:

"That sublimated pleasure which is the seal of all the arts reaches its purest condition when evoked by a work in which the æsthetic quality is not too closely mingled with the everyday human. . All Asian art has recognized for centuries the fact that vision and imagination are the faculties by which the painter as well as the poet must grapple with reality. . . Its function is the function which the European public grants to poets but not always to painters - the seeking out of subtle and invisible relations in things, the perception of harmonies and rhythms not heard by the common ear, the interpretation of life in terms of a finer and more beautiful order than practical life has ever known."

These considerations are reiterated and specifically applied in dealing with the several artists upon whose works Mr. Ficke pleasantly discourses. His pages are packed with information for the student and the collector, but so deftly is it worked in that the reader may easily fail at first to realize its extent. There are a few mistakes, but all of them relate to matters of minor importance. Still, as even little things are of interest to students, it may not be amiss to point out those that seem to invite comment.

In the opening chapter the assertion is made that "the linear perspective of the Japanese exactly reverses that of Western painting," and that "in their system, parallel lines converge as they approach the spectator." Isometric projection, which the Japanese artists employed until the elements of linear perspective were learned from the Dutch at Nagasaki, cannot be called "Japanese perspective," and when it is used parallel lines do not actually but only apparently converge as they approach the spectator.

The Hanekawa Chiucho Motonobu mentioned on page 105 is identical with Hanekawa Chincho named on page 91, and it is not known that he was a pupil of Okumura Masanobu, nor is it likely, for he appears to have been the elder man by some ten or eleven years.

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in 1729, must be regarded as the second Kiyonobu, produced any hand-colored prints is not "uncertain," as Mr. Ficke asserts on page 88. Two pages farther on he says it is "fairly established" that he did. The fact is that there are in existence several hand-colored prints signed Torii Kiyonobu which can be definitely ascribed to the year 1742.

can be definitely ascribed to the year 1742.

The blue of Koryūsai's "own devising," mentioned on page 163, was used before his day by Harunobu, Kiyomitsu, and Toyonobu. And Shunchō was so far from having "only one manner except in a few early actor prints," that, after the passing of Kiyonaga's style, he designed prints in that of Eishi, Utamaro, and even Sharaku; and early in his career he made a few that closely imitate the style of Shigemasa.

Such errors as "the Kikunojō clan" (p. 135) in place of the Segawa line; or specifying Nakamura Matsuye when Nakamura Tomijūrō is depicted (plate 20); or of naming one of Kiyonaga's masterpieces representing a party of merrymakers in a room open upon one side, "The Terrace by the Sea," when no terrace is shown, are of little consequence.

More serious is the spelling of certain Japanese names in a way that will not stand critical examination. That one should be confused by such divergent forms as Ukioye, Ukiyoye, and Ukiyoe is not surprising. For the first form, however, there is no warrant save that it has obtained currency among English writers. The word is made up of the three syllables Uki (floating) yo (world) e (picture). It is possible to use the syllable ye, which also signifies a picture; but as the y is silent, the other syllable is preferable and is the one that is used by the Japanese. In transliterating Japanese words there is seldom any occasion for the use of ye. represents a sound heard only in the middle of words where, as in "Shunyei" for example, the sound of the preceding syllable forces it. It is not heard in such names as Eishi, Eiri, Edo, and the like; and the forms Yeishi, Yeiri, and Yedo therefore invite mispronunciation. So also does the spelling "Koriusai," though in lesser degree. In the accepted system of phonetic transliteration is has the sound of ee in "meet." To represent correctly the name of the artist just mentioned we must spell it Koryūsai. The r is slightly rolled, the y sounded full, and the u rolonged. The word is made up of the syllables Ko (lake) ryû (dragon) sai (studio).

Mr. Ficke's estimates of the work of the several artists are singularly just. His clear-sighted appreciation of the qualities in these

works that commend them so strongly to people of taste, and his felicitous portrayal of their fascination, are the things that give his book its value. With very few of his assertions respecting the leading artists is it possible to quarrel. Of Harunobu he truly says that "his real theme was the great harmonies of colour and line." But when he claims that "every print signed Harunobu is suspect, until we know whether Shiba Kokan, the confessed forger of a few prints signed Harunobu, was "the greatest liar or the greatest forger in history," he does grievous injury to the reputation of a great artist. The truth is that none of Harunobu's important works can be suspect. Kokan was far from being his equal. He had some ability, and a few clever forgeries put forth immediately after Harunobu's death were not inferior to some of the master's pot-boilers. But the number of his forgeries that are easily recognizable by their mannerisms makes it fairly certain that all or nearly all of them must similarly betray their origin. That Koryūsai also may have forged Harunobu's signature is a statement with which the reviewer cannot agree. He has never seen a scintilla of evidence to support the supposition.

Aside from this failure to realize the unapproachable charm and the strength of Harunobu's designs, Mr. Ficke's remarks about the several artists are all that could be desired. Take, for example, his chat about Sharaku. How could the significance of his work be better expressed than in the words of the opening paragraph?

"Few people approach Sharaku's work for the first time without regarding him as a repulsive charlatan, the creator of perversely and senselessly ugly portraits whose cross-eyes, impossible mouths, and snaky gestures have not the slightest claim to be called art. At first these strange pietures may even seem mirth-provoking to the spectator—a view of them which he will remember in later years with almost incredulous wonder. To overcome one's original feeling of repulsion may take a long time; but to every serious student of Japanese prints there comes at last a day when he sees these portraits with different eyes; and suddenly the consciousness is born in him that Sharaku stands on the highest level of genius, in a greatness unique, sublime, and appalling."

The final chapter of the book is addressed to the collector, and is full of practical wisdom. The author was perhaps ill-advised in giving instructions for washing prints, since it may lead people to attempt it with disastrous results. And when mentioning the possibility of certain stains being removed mechanically it would have been well to add that the knife should be used only on un-

printed parts of the paper. The other suggestions as to the care of prints, and the advice about what to look for and what to avoid when buying, are very much to the point. A unique and delightful feature of the book is found in the poems that serve to introduce many of the artists to the reader. The volume is well printed, and is illustrated with half-tone reproductions of a considerable number of prints. To say that it is a distinct contribution to the literature of the subject is not enough: it is easily the best book about Japanese prints that has yet been written.

FREDERICK W. GOOKIN.

#### DE PROFUNDIS.\*

Remembering the tendency to sluggishness that at all times besets the human imagination, and our proneness

"In the hollow Lotos-land to live and lie reclined On the hills like Gods together, careless of mankind."

it is perhaps well for us that by a blast as from some subterranean trumpet, we should be reminded of the under-world of tragedy and suffering from which we are separated by the thinnest of partitions. The time seems peculiarly appropriate for just such a call to serious thinking as Mr. Sinclair's anthology, "The Cry for Justice." The collective conscience of the world, with its accompanying sense of responsibility for the woes of humanity, is awakening in these latter days to an extent that constitutes this a new age. But like all awakening sleepers, the world resents the intrusion of troublesome realities and the disturbance of pleasant dreams, and is fain to turn on the other side and sink once more into slumber. It is this proclivity to somnolence that must justify the bringing together of these vivid pictures of human misery selected from the entire range of the world That the volume will serve a of literature. useful purpose in arousing many from the ignoble repose which life offers to even a moderate degree of affluence, when combined with a sensitiveness to the joys of the intellect and the things of the spirit, we cannot doubt.

"The Cry for Justice" must be considered as being specially addressed to those middle-class people who are the chief creators of public opinion, who owe little of their enjoyment of life to the leverage of special privilege, and who are not too removed from the menace of poverty to be alive to the

appeal for social justice. That the anthology is as forceful and convincing as it might have been we cannot concede. When one remembers the immense field over which the material for such a compendium is scattered, one hesitates to suggest that the book might well have been condensed or boiled down. Every writer and editor knows, however, as every horticulturalist knows, the wisdom of ruthless pruning, and we fancy the readers of this book will agree with us in thinking that much which is included might with advantage have Passages from Talleyrand. been omitted. Lafcadio Hearn, Nietzsche, the German Emperor, and others that could be named, seem to have little bearing on the main purpose of the book, and only weaken its appeal. We should have liked to see greater use made of the writings of the later prophets of Israel. The cry for justice has never gone up to Heaven in more impressive language than was constantly used by Habakkuk, Hosea, Malachi, and Amos; and the condemnation of the economic structure of Society which prevails to this day was never more convincingly expressed than in the words, "Behold, it is not of the Lord of Hosts that the people should labour as in the fire, or weary themselves for very vanity."

While admitting that the production of this anthology is fully justified by the tragic conditions under which human life is being passed upon this planet,-by the seething restlessness and discontent on the part of those who have to bear the heavy burdens of life while debarred from participation in its higher joys, and by the stupid misunderstanding of the signs of the times on the part of the governing classes, a critic's function would not be discharged if he failed to point out that, as inevitably happens in such cases, the picture presented is composed entirely of shadows, and the lights (not to speak of high lights) are completely omitted. The consequence is that the feeling of atmosphere and perspective is lost, and the impression left upon the mind of the reader is not entirely true to fact. There is, for instance, little in the book to remind us that misery is not distributed in inverse ratio to affluence, nor happiness directly in proportion to wealth. There is no suggestion of "the soothing thoughts that spring out of human suffering. There is little hint of the gleams of joy that gild the horizon of the most wretched, or of the abject joylessness that attends life in many a luxurious drawing-room. The editor quotes an impressive passage from Carlyle,-

"It is not because of his toils that I lament for the poor; we must all toil, or steal (howsoever we

<sup>\*</sup>THE CRY FOR JUSTICE. An Anthology of the Literature of Social Protest. Edited by Upton Sinclair; with Introduction by Jack London. Illustrated. Philadelphia: John C. Winston Co.

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name our stealing), which is worse. The poor is hungry and athirst, but for him also there is food and drink; he is heavy-laden and weary, but for him also Heaven sends sleep and of the deepest; in his smoky cribs a clear dewy heaven of rest envelops him, and fitful glimmerings of cloud-skirted dreams. But what I do mourn over is that the lamp of his soul should go out; that no ray of Heavenly or even of earthly knowledge should visit him."

But none knew better than Carlyle that the lamp of the soul is extinguished by wealth more readily than by poverty and oppression, and that the spiritual plight of the slaveowner or the irresponsible capitalist is frequently worse than that of the slave. Indeed, it may reasonably be maintained that the capacity for joy in the human soul expires more rapidly in the asphyxiating atmosphere of riches than in the social stratum where a struggle for the bread that perishes is the rule of daily life. That it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of Heaven, is not merely a poetic metaphor but a statement of fact which many millionaires are bitterly aware of; while those who are best acquainted with the life of the poor know well that it is difficult to find a human being so destitute as to have entirely lost the capacity for joy, or the power of reacting to the stimuli of starlit nights and the beauty of the sunrise.

We should be exceedingly unwilling to appear as though acting the part of apologist for things as they are. Our only concern is that we should see life as it is, and in its true proportions and perspective; and if the reader of "The Cry for Justice" can be trusted to bear in mind that the picture is inevitably out of drawing and lacking in the elements that constitute truth in art, the lesson that the book teaches of the dire necessity to save civilization by a study of the economics of industry, will be well learned. But after having steeped himself, possibly to the point of despair, in the atmosphere of misery which the book presents, we recommend the reader to seek a quiet corner in which to study carefully Burns's "Jolly Beggars" by way of a spiritual counterpoise. There he will find all that is lacking in the doleful pictures of life presented in the book he has just read. The joy in human companionship; the delight in that irresponsibility that only those know who have nothing to lose; the trustful instinct which feels no anxiety for the future and tastes with gratitude the cup of joy as it passes, without a misgiving as to what may come next; the sane and rational attitude toward life that is unknown to most men of

wealth and which expresses itself in the lines, "The present moment is our own, the next we never saw": all these side-lights on the life of the poor he will find in that great masterpiece, and will be compelled to admit that it bears the stamp of truth which only a great artist can give to a picture.

ALEX. MACKENDRICK.

#### A NEW VERSION OF THE PARSIVAL LEGEND.\*

The idea of translating Gerhard Hauptmann's "Parsival" was indeed a good one, but in Mr. Oakley Williams's rendering the spirit of the original has been grossly misinterpreted. Hauptmann's work was written as a child's book, for his twelve-year-old son, and published with spirited pictures. Disregarding this fact, the translator has sought to make it into a sententious "allegory of life." The book jacket advertises the translation as "retaining to a remarkable degree the beauty and simplicity of the original." One who has really read Hauptmann's exquisite German will feel that the kind of alliterative prose in which the translator has rendered it is little more than a mockery.

The legend of the Grail was one which entered German literature early in the thirteenth century, with Wolfram von Eschenbach's "Parsival." To him is due the trans-

formation of the fantastic story of the Grail into a legend filled with deepest human significance, the principal characteristics of which have endured and reappeared in modern ver-Wolfram divested the legend of the churchly character which his French predecessor had endeavored to give it, and made the Grail a centre of extra-ecclesiastical worship, guarded in a castle accessible only to the truthful and pure of heart. The Grail that hovered before the poet's eyes was rather an Aladdin's lamp than a body relic. In the centuries after Wolfram, the meaning of the Grail fell rapidly to a significance purely sensual; its castle became an earthly paradise. Neither the printing of Wolfram's poem in 1477 nor Bodmer's attempted revival in 1753-81 bore fruit. The literary renaissance of the legend, stimulated by new editions of the poem and by histories of mediæval literature, began with Immermann's "Merlin," 1830-32, and culminated in Wagner's "Parsival." These two were not dramatizations of the

mediæval epic, but rather new creations de
\*Parsuval. By Gerhard Hauptmann. Authorized translation by Oakley Williams. New York: The Macmillan Co.

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pendent upon the ancient sources for only a few motifs.

In his work Hauptmann has reverted for the main outlines of the story to the version of Wolfram, but has restored to the legend much of the lofty religious atmosphere and significance which it had lost. Parsival, who has lived alone with his mother Heartache, unconscious of the existence of other human beings, forsakes her to battle against the world. After slaying the Proud Knight of the Heath to avenge a maiden, he turns back only to find that Heartache and the hut where she lived have disappeared. Parsival sets out to find her and to kill the man from whose wrong she suffered. In his wanderings he comes upon the Grail, but forsakes it because he does not know its meaning. guesses what it may be he is never again able to find it. Intent on the search, he forsakes his young wife Blanchefleur, and casts away an earthly kingdom. When he returns, after years of fruitless search, it is only to find that his wife has just died. His son Lohengrin does not recognize him, nor does anyone except the old Arab from whom he had learned that the Grail was a miraculous symbol of Christ's passion, and that Amfortas, its keeper, was his own father. Parsival then becomes a serving man, a bearer of burdens in the cities and a serf in the country. He comes to realize that Heartache is but a symbol for the sorrows of the whole world. Finally, when he feels that his search is near an end, the aged messenger of the Grail, followed by a knightly train, enters his hut. He places upon Parsival's own head the "crown of joy and sorrow of the Grail."

The episode of the Proud Knight of the Heath preserves the germ of the ancient incident of Schionatulander and Sigune. Hauptmann's Arab recalls the Priest Johannes, who in Wolfram's version tempts men's fancy to stray in distant India. In both versions Lohengrin is the son of Parsival. The Grail castle, however, is no longer a gay paradise where the comrades live in luxurious ease, but "there where God-like beings of their own free will suffer torment to the end that they may release the world from its burden and yet are immortal in the light of their near-by Paradise.'

Notwithstanding its modest pretensions as a child's book, Hauptmann's "Parsival" may be regarded as one of the most noteworthy modern versions of the story,—a great poet's contribution to a great legend. It is unfortunate that the present English rendering should be so inadequate. M. GOEBEL.

#### RECENT FICTION.

Since Professor Phelps devoted a chapter to Michael Artzibashef in his book on the Russian novelists, and since the publication of an English translation of "Sanine" a year ago, the name of this writer has become fairly familiar to American readers. More recently, we have had "The Millionaire" (a group of three novelettes), and now we have a very long novel entitled "Breaking-Point." The meaning of the title gradually dawns upon us as the characters commit suicide one after another, and it becomes evident that the author intends to sweep the board. Otherwise, the novel might have grown to an indefinitely greater length, since it has nothing in the nature of a rounded plot to force a conclusion. All these tragic people live in a little village of the steppes; all but one or two lead strictly sensual lives, without a gleam of the higher motives for existence; and when their appetites fail to provide them with enduring satisfaction, they naturally force their exits from an intolerable world. There is in the book hardly a suggestion that there is such a thing as morality for men and women, and none of these characters could read "Comus" with the faintest idea of its meaning. Their watchword seems to be: "Let us eat and drink (especially drink) and indulge the sexual passion, for to-morrow we die (by our own hands)." We have had occasion to characterize certain conspicuous English novels of recent years as devoted to a portrayal of the futility of life, but the gloomiest of them are optimistic tracts in comparison with this exhibition of the soul of Young Russia. The author bares this soul remorselessly; and if we believed his revelation to be typical, we should indeed despair of the great people from which he has sprung. But we must not forget that the people that claims a Gogol and a Tolstoy and a Tourguénieff has a great deal more to say for life than this, even when we admit a strain of temperamental melancholy running through their work; and we must not allow ourselves to be persuaded that M. Artzibashef speaks for anything more than a disillusionized section of the younger generation. speaks powerfully there is no question, but even the magic of his passages descriptive of nature does not go far to rescue us from depression as we contemplate his studies of the human animal wallowing in the trough.

<sup>\*</sup> SREAKING-POINT. By Michael Artzibashef. New York: B. W. Huebsch.
Goo's MAN. By George Bronson Howard. Indianapolis:
The Bobbe-Merrill Co.
THE PASSPORT. By Emile Voute. New York: Mitchell Kennerley.

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The hero of "God's Man," a lengthy novel by Mr. George Bronson Howard, is one Arnold L'Hommedieu, descended from a long line of distinguished ancestors, domiciled since colonial times on Long Island. The title of the novel is thus accounted for in a literal way; but the author intends it also to be taken symbolically, as indicating a man's struggle against temptation, and his underlying purpose to do God's will in a very demoralized world. About midway in the narrative, Arnold makes a confession which epitomizes the success which he has at that time attained. "May be you can tell me why two of my friends and myself who had intended to live decent lives and be some help to our fellows why we have been forced into shoddy practices and shady lives? For exposing a rascal, I was expelled from college. For shielding a friend, I was reduced to the worst kind of poverty. For trying to get justice for a helpless woman, I got into jail. By using influence with the most corrupt kind of politicians I got out. To get back to my former kind of life I had to accept a position with a man who is a wholesale poisoner. To get the little money I've saved, I had to blackmail my employer." This confession shows that

"Ein guter Mensch in seinem dunkeln Drange Ist sich des rechten Weges wohl bewusst."

But we are a little dubious about accepting Arnold as God's man when he thereafter engages, from strictly sordid motives, in a scheme for smuggling a cargo of opium into the United States. The story of this enterprise, and of the way in which it was finally thwarted, forms the core of the narrative, which is by no means devoid of exciting interest. Arnold's relations with the underworld of New York give the author an opportunity to display his minute knowledge of the activities of that sphere of life, and his extraordinary acquaintance with the thieves' jargon which in these circles serves as a medium of communication. The linguistic feats of Mr. George Ade and Mr. George M. Cohan are outdone in these pages. And yet, despite the siekening atmosphere of the novel, it displays a considerable degree of power, a remarkable gift for characterization, and a kind of philosophy of life. In its exuberance and its arresting commentary upon life it even suggests the later work of Mr. H. G. Wells. But it does not convince us that its hero is cast for the rôle implied by the title of the novel.

Some weeks ago, we reviewed a novel in which American inventiveness came to the rescue of a world in agony, and ended the war by means of a device for neutralizing the force of gravity, whereby an aerial warship

was constructed that should hover, massive and impregnable, at a convenient altitude over the enemy's fortress or host, and bring it quickly to terms. To-day, in "The Pass-port," by Mr. Emile Voûte, we have another ingenious phantasy of the same type, the invention in this case being an asphyxiating gas, discharged from shells or toy balloons over the heads of its victims, and in a trice reducing them to an unconsciousness that lasts for several hours, but has no injurious after-effects. This is the most humane method of enforcing peace that has thus far been suggested. Armed with his invention, our hero proceeds to the theatre of war, has an interview with the German Emperor. and dictates the terms upon which the new weapon will be withheld from his enemies. When these conditions are rejected, the formula is turned over to the allies, and the German forces are speedily routed and disarmed. The author writes as an American, although his name appears to be French, and he contrives to tell a singularly interesting story. He is beset by German spies from the moment when he is suspected of having something "up his sleeve"; but his resourcefulness, aided by good luck, is quite adequate to all the difficult situations in which he is placed, and whenever he gets into a fix we are confident that he will get out of it in the next chapter. The author is clearly no parti-san of the method that piles up agonies until the dénouement, and then sweeps them all away at once, leaving us to recall our scattered senses from their bewilderment. One crisis at a time is his motto, and that is to be surmounted before the next one arises. story derives its title from a rather foolish wager made by the hero, to the effect that he will make his way through the warring camps without a passport. He is provided with one, of course, but he destroys it as an evidence of good faith at the time the terms of the wager are agreed upon.

WILLIAM MORTON PAYNE.

#### BRIEFS ON NEW BOOKS.

In the spring of 1914 President Hadley delivered at the University of Virginia a series of three lectures on Political Methods, and at Oxford University a similar series on Property and Democracy. The six lectures have now been gathered into a single volume entitled "Undercurrents in American Politics" (Yale University Press),—although in his preface the author suggests that an equally

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appropriate title would be "Extra-Constitutional Government in the United States." The Virginia lectures undertake to show how those matters which were placed by the framers of the Constitution in the hands of the federal government have frequently been managed by agencies which are extra-constitutional and very different from those which were intended to manage them. The agencies principally considered in this connection are political parties and the press, the most original and illuminating of the lectures being that one devoted to the press as the present seat of actual political power. It is demonstrated that in a democracy public opinion must some-how be organized in order to be effective. This organization was once the work almost entirely of party managers; but it is maintained that nowadays it is through the press that the American people forms its opinion as to men and measures, and that the man who accomplishes most in modern politics is he who recognizes this fact most fully. organization of public opinion by the newspapers instead of by the party managers has the advantages, we are told, of involving a more direct appeal to reason and of causing public opinion to be formed in the open; but it affords no necessary guarantee against appeals to prejudice, emotion, and impatience. The Oxford Lectures, on Property and Democracy, show how in this country a great many organized activities of the community have been kept out of government control alto-Here are traced the gradual growth of political democracy in the United States, the essentials of the constitutional position of the property owner, and the more important recent tendencies in economics and in legislation. It is shown that in spite of frequent acts of adverse legislation the constitutional position of the property owner in the United States has been stronger than in any country in Europe, and that there is no nation which is so far removed from Socialism as ours by its organic law and its habits of political The rights of private property are substantially buttressed by numerous provisions of the Constitution, and they have re-mained unshaken amidst the most sweeping democratizing changes in the domain of politics. Only since the opening of the present century has there been any serious movement toward State Socialism in America, the mainspring of this movement being popular dissatisfaction aroused by the manifest failure of competition as a regulator of business and of industrial operations. Experiments in State control, however, are proving more costly than the general public knows, and Mr. Hadley properly concludes that the solution of the problem will not be reached until the public demand for State control of industry and for trained civil service go hand in hand. "Until the public appreciates expert work in the offices of state, industrial control in the United States is likely to remain in the hands of the property owner"; after that, the inference is, there may be a very considerable extension of public ownership and control.

If a much broken page well Reminiscences of a genial Irish judge. sprinkled with quotation marks is indicative of lively reading, the "Recollections of an Irish Judge: Press, Bar, and Parliament" (Dodd) ought to be one of the sprightliest volumes of the season. It is not and does not profess to be an autobiography; it is a collection of anecdotes concerning illustrious and other persons known or at least met with by the writer, the Hon. M. McD. Bodkin, K.C., in his varied activities as journalist, at the bar, on the bench, and in Parliament. Descended from the Bodkins of Galway, he has evidently inherited the quickness of wit that one expects to find in every true son of Erin; for have we not his own testimony to that effect in his book? Here is a parliamentary incident of which the narrator was the hero: "On one occasion Mr. Johnston, of Ballykilbeg, whose comic bigotry was a source of perennial amusement, objected . . to the use in primary schools of the book containing Moore's song, 'Row, brothers, row,' on the ground that its allusion to 'saints of our own green isle' inculcated the worship of saints. Before the Minister could reply I popped up with a supplementary question. 'Is the right honourable gentleman aware,' I asked, with a face as grave as a mustard-pot, 'that in the intermediate schools and universities they require the study of an alleged poet named Homer, who encourages the worship of Jupiter, June, Venus and other objectionable personages! and "the uproarious laughter of the House" told him he had scored. Parnell, Gladstone, Justin McCarthy, and other notables figure in Portraits, including these anecdotal pages. Portraits, incluthe author's in the frontispiece, abound.

Mr. Wister's literary art rather than a work of information or discussion, Mr. Owen Wister's "The Pentecost of Calamity" (Macmillan) differs from most of the books dealing with the present war. The style throughout is keyed up to the pitch of the somewhat apocalyptic title. Much skill is shown in the disposition of the material. Mr.

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Wister, who was in Germany shortly before the war began, tells first of the delightful impressions made on him by the smiling orderliness and smooth efficiency of life there. But months and years before this, as he now believes, Germany had been crouching for her spring. In his opinion, she had been maddened by self-esteem, - the mania of grandeur complemented by the mania of persecution. The Superman, the Superrace, and the Superstate were the new Trinity of her worship, and war became for her a sort of holy crusade. Then in a short chapter he gives a composite statement of Prussianism, compiled sentence by sentence from the utterances of the Kaiser and some of his most illustrious subjects, which, it must be granted, goes far to confirm his thesis. There is very little discussion in the book, and perhaps no new fact is brought out-unless it be the amazing confession, which the author ascribes to Prince Lichnowsky, that the Kaiser had sent him as ambassador to England to find out when the English were so embroiled in their own domestie troubles as to enable Germany to strike her blow on the Continent with impunity. Mr. Wister ends by pointing out the special significance of the struggle for America, who, he thinks, cannot stand aside with mute lips and folded arms while what he regards as the deadliest assault ever made on democracy is being perpetrated in Europe.

"A Quiet Corner in a Library," by Mr. William Henry Hudson, by Mr. william though wooes the reader by its title and wins him by its agreeable contents. authors are discussed in as many chapters. They are Thomas Hood, Henry Carey, George Lille, and Samuel Richardson. The Lillo paper gives a foretaste of a more elaborate work, now nearing completion, on "George Lillo and the Middle Class Drama of the Eighteenth Century"; the article on Hood is expanded from a lecture prepared many years ago for California hearers; but nothing in the book has before been printed. Good reading will be found between the covers of this compact little volume, even though there is nothing in the subjects chosen or the treatment of them to give promise of novelty. But a certain freshness of interest felt by the writer is likely to communicate itself to the reader. In his thirty-three pages on Henry Carey, Mr. Hudson rather unaccountably mits all mention of the one production that in some if not in many minds is most nearly associated with that oddly gifted genius. Though the authorship of "God Save the King" is ascribed to Carey without conclusive proof, yet it is thus generally ascribed, and to tell his story without the slightest reference to that famous anthem is somewhat like narrating the life of Newton with no allusion to the law of gravitation. It is even asserted by Mr. Hudson that of all Carey's works, "the one which, leaving 'Sally in Our Alley' out of the question, has done most to preserve his name from oblivion . . is 'Chrononhotonthologos.'" It is a good and scholarly book, however, and its closing chapter, on Richardson, is perhaps the best of the four. (Rand, McNally & Co.)

That the world is becoming Wealth and income in the United States. wealthier no one denies. But it is often asserted that while the rich are growing richer, the poor are growing poorer. In his volume entitled "The Wealth and Income of the People of the United States" (Macmillan), Dr. Willford Isbell King defines wealth and income, and discusses the distribution of wealth and of income in this country among the factors of production, corporations, and families. The book is based upon a careful study of various sources, both public and private. The author does not claim mathematical exactness for his conclusions, but believes that they are approximately correct. Good evidence is produced to show that "since 1876 there has occurred a marked concentration of income in the hands of the very rich; that the poor have lost, relatively, but little; but that the middle class has been the principal sufferer." In some cases the poorest four-fifths of the population own scarcely ten per cent of the total wealth, while the richest two per cent own almost three-fifths. Whether the individual is to be regarded as a gainer by this condition of affairs will depend upon the answers offered to a number of questions of economic and social import. The facts gathered are interesting in themselves, and are presented in an orderly way, subject to some criticism of details.

Interest at large in the seemingly intelligent behavior of animals has received fresh impetus from the remarkable performances of the clever "thinking horses" of Elberfeld in Germany and of "Captain" in this country. These performances range from the doing of simple sums in arithmetic to the reputed extraction of the roots of large numbers. Some horses, on the other hand, exhibit an aptitude for spelling. Mr. E. M. Smith, in his "Investigation of Mind in Animals" (Putnam), dismisses at once the suggestions of

telepathy, an unknown sense, and of fraud as adequate explanations. He analyzes the evidence, put forward by Pfungst and others, of unconscious involuntary signs on the part of the interrogator (who is generally the trainer of the horse), such as infinitesimal movements of the head or eyes which give the horse his cue. He cites as militating against this explanation the success of blinded horses, the marked individual preferences of the horses, the nature of the errors made, and the evidences of indecision in the replies. On the whole, he believes that the evidence tends to discountenance the sign theory; but that, with a few notable and as yet unexplained exceptions, all of the feats so far achieved might be accounted for by association, involving an excellent memory but not certainly any rational process. The booklet is a brief and inadequate summary of the main facts and theories regarding the evolution of intelligence among animals, from the lowest to the highest, as evidenced by behavior. The author avoids extensive considerations of the much debated tropism theory, and fails to utilize a wide range of available and valuable material from the insect world.

"Woman Homesteader" The Bits of trugedy and romance from the West. known to the many fortunate readers of her published "Letters" continues her vivid sketches of Wyoming life in further communications to her "dear Mrs. Coney," and this time the packet of letters is entitled "Letters on an Elk Hunt" (Houghton). It was on or during the hunting excursion of two months in the autumn of 1914 that the letters were written, not about the hunt, except a few pages; and thus it is that so much of the writer's well-known skill in depicting character and incident finds room for exercise. Humor and pathos, tragedy and comedy, romance and realism, successively enrich these unstudied accounts of every-day persons and events amid the hard conditions of the western frontier. Stewart has a genius for discovering heroic characters in humble life, and for making her readers feel that heroism. She can also present the amusing or otherwise interesting side of any man, woman, or child not hopelessly devoid of interest. Her great-hearted Mrs. O'Shaughnessy and sturdily unromantic Mrs. Louderer reappear in this book, and new friends are introduced, including two promising youngsters that Mrs. O'Shaughnessy feels irresistibly moved to adopt on the journey. To what extent (if any) Mrs. Stewart had designs on a book-reading and bookbuying public in writing this second series of letters, is a matter of conjecture; but her pages have the freshness and naturalness that one looks for in the friendly correspondence of a bright and observant woman.

If you can't see the difference. Pragmatism vs. Bergsonism. asks the pragmatist, what is the difference? And, conversely, wherever there is a difference, this same pragmatist emphatically proclaims, distingue. To such a series of distinguo's Dr. H. M. Kallen is led after a searching analysis and comparison of the Jamesian and the Bergsonian philosophies. For this task the author, who was for several years in intimate contact with James, and who edited James's unfinished "Some Problems in Philosophy," is eminently fitted. In his "William James and Henri Bergson: A Study in Contrasting Theories of Life" (University of Chicago Press), Dr. Kallen argues that James's, and not Bergson's, is the theory of life that "faces forward"; that in their Weltanschauung, in the intuitional and the pragmatic methods, and in the resulting implications about God, the universe, and man, the two philosophies, despite current near-identification, are fundamentally and diametrically opposed. These challenging conclusions Dr. Kallen expounds, for the Fachman, with painstaking detail; for the layman, with a captivating style; for both, with the zeal of the disciple.

Mr. Arthur Machen more than Bits of battle fiction. half suspects that the recent crop of legends concerning sundry miraculous occurrences in the critical retreat from Mons may all have sprung from seed of his own sowing, in the shape of a little story that he wrote and sent to a London newspaper in the early days of the war. This fanciful tale now reappears as the first in a little book of stories, "The Bowmen, and Other Legends of the War" (Putnam), all by Mr. Machen, and all in similar vein, partaking of the supernatural and appealing to the credulous reader's love of the miraculous. The Bowmen in question are ghostly archers led to the rescue of the hard-pressed English Such tales of by England's patron saint. celestial succor seem to have spread from one end of the Anglo-French battle-line to the other, and it appears more likely that they are all traceable to the peculiar horror, the stupendous magnitude and unspeakable awfulness. of the titanic struggle, than to any single invention. But the curious in such matters will enjoy Mr. Machen's argumentative introduction and postscript. The book is a slight production, but of considerable present interest.

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#### NOTES.

A series of papers on "Practical Socialism" by the late Canon and Mrs. S. A. Barnett will soon be published by Messrs. Longmans, Green, & Co.

A volume of "Letters from America" by the late Rupert Brooke is soon to be published. Mr. Henry James has written a preface for the book.

The first collected volume of verse by Mr. Gilbert Cannan will appear early next month under the title of "Adventurous Love, and Other Poems."

Another account of personal experiences in the war zone is announced by the Houghton Mifflin Co. in Mr. Horace Green's "The Log of a Noncombatant."

Two new war books soon to be issued by Messrs. Doran are Mr. Norman Angell's "The World's Highway" and Mrs. Mary Roberts Rinehart's "Kings, Queens, and Pawns."

A volume on "Play Production in America," by Mr. Arthur Edwin Krows, will be published next winter by Messrs. Holt. It is said to be the first book of its kind to be written.

A volume of literary memoirs by Theodore Watts-Dunton, collected from "The Athenæum," under the title of "Old Familiar Faces," will probably be ready next month.

A volume of "Prussian Memories," by Mr. Poultney Bigelow, which recounts the experiences of his boyhood and later years in Germany, is in press for early issue by Messrs. Putnam.

A fairy tale by the Queen of Rumania, entitled "The Dreamer of Dreams," is included in Messrs. Hodder & Stoughton's list of forthcoming giftbooks. It has been illustrated in color by Mr. Edmund Dulac.

A new poetic drama by Mr. Stephen Phillips, entitled "Harold," will appear in the January issue of "The Poetry Review." The drama will shortly be produced at Hastings, England, where its seene is laid.

"From Moscow to the Persian Gulf," by Mr. Benjamin B. Moore, is announced by Messrs. Putnam. It is a narrative of travel by train, carriage, and caravan across the steppes of Russia and through Persia.

A record of the achievements of "The Irish Abroad," written by Mr. Elliot O'Donnell, is announced for early issue by Messrs. E. P. Dutton & Co. It begins with the first authentic migrations, and comes down to the present day.

We have received word from Mr. Alfred A. Knopf that he has taken over from Messrs. George H. Doran Co. the publishing rights to Dr. J. W. Mackail's "Russia's Gift to the World" and Dr. Paul Vinogradoff's "The Russian Problem," both of which were reviewed in our issue of Sept. 30.

A new series of Russian fiction in English translation is projected by Messrs. John W. Luce & Co. by arrangement with Messrs. Maunsel & Co. of Dublin and London. The following volumes are in preparation: Tchekov's "The Bet, and Other Tales"; Danchenko's two novels, "With a

Diploma" and "The Whirlwind"; Korolenko's "The Blind Musician"; and Kuprin's "The Shulamite."

An important item, hitherto unannounced, on Messrs. Scribner's autumn list is Mr. Ralph Adams Cram's "Heart of Europe," embodying descriptions of the architectural treasures of those towns of northeastern France and of Belgium which have been damaged or endangered in the present war.

To the "Wayfarer's Library" will be immediately added four new volumes (all novels). Their titles are: "Seaforth Highlanders," by Mr. F. W. Walker; "Blackwatch," by Messrs. L. Cope Cornford and F. W. Walker; "In the Wake of King James," by Mr. Standish O'Grady; and "Rosemary's Letter Book," by Mr. W. L. Courtney.

"The Life of Clara Barton" by Mr. Perey H. Epler, long Miss Barton's intimate friend, is announced for immediate publication. This, the first authorized biography, has been produced with the coöperation of the friends and relatives of Miss Barton. Mr. Epler has had access to many unpublished letters and diaries, and also to official reports and documents.

Lockhart's "History of Napoleon Buonaparte" has been edited by Dr. Holland Rose for the "Oxford Editions of Standard Authors." Two other fortheoming additions to the same series are Creasy's "Fifteen Decisive Battles of the World," with an Introduction by Mr. H. W. C. Davis; and "Stories and Poems" by Bret Harte, edited by Mr. William Macdonald.

The death of Henri Fabre lends unusual interest to the latest volume of translated matter from the great naturalist's "Souvenirs Entomologiques." This volume, devoted to "The Hunting Wasps," will appear immediately. The publishers, Messrs. Dodd, Mead & Co., have prepared an illustrated booklet devoted to Fabre's life and work, which they are glad to send without charge upon request.

The first number of the "Technical Book Review Index," a selected list of important technical and scientific books and book reviews in leading journals, has been issued by the Index Office of Chicago. The compilation has been made by the Technology Department of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh. The Index is to appear quarterly, and will embrace from two to three thousand titles annually. The aim, to make the work done for one library of service to the many, is praiseworthy.

Among other historical works announced for autumn publication by the Oxford University Press are the following: "Lord Selkirk's Work in Canada," by Professor Chester Martin; "The Evolution of Prussia," by Messrs. J. A. R. Marriott and C. Grant Robertson; "The Foundation of the Ottoman Empire," by Professor H. A. Gibbons; "Keigwin's Rebellion (1682-4): An Episode in the History of Bombay," by Messrs. Ray and Oliver Strachey; and "The Balkans and Turkey," by Messrs. Nevill Forbes, D. Mitrany, Arnold Toynbee, and others.

"Women at The Hague," a narrative account of the International Congress of Women held at The Hague last spring, will soon be issued by the Macmillan Co. The authors are Jane Addams, Emily Greene Balch, and Alice Hamilton. The volume will contain an appendix on continuous mediation by a delegate to the Congress from the University of Wisconsin, as well as the resolutions adopted by the Congress. Among the chaptertitles are the following: "Journey and Impressions of the Congress," "The Women at the Congress," "Civil Government in Time of War," "Journey to the Northern Capital," and "Factors in Continuing the War."

There are not a few readers to whom one of the most welcome announcements of the season is that of a new collection of Mr. Austin Dobson's delightful eighteenth-century vignettes. "Rosalba's Journal and Other Papers" is the title of the forthcoming volume. In addition to Rosalba Carriera, the Venetian miniature painter whose journal during her stay in Paris in 1720-21 gives the book its title, there are papers on Matthew Prior's "noble, lovely, little Peggy," the Duchess of Portland, Streatham Place, Lord George Gordon and the Gordon Riots, and the early years of Madame Royale. "A New Dialogue of the Dead," in which the author conceives an interview between Henry Fielding and his first biographer, Arthur Murphy, brings the volume to a close.

John Bishop Putnam, son of the founder of the Putnam publishing house, and brother of Mr. George Haven Putnam, its present head, and of Mr. Herbert Putnam, Librarian of the Library of Congress, died on the 7th of this month in his sixty-seventh year. He was born on Staten Island, N. Y., July 17, 1849, educated at Clark and Fanning's Collegiate Institute in New York City, and at the Pennsylvania Agricultural College; entered the publishing house of G. P. Putnam's Sons in 1868, and was its treasurer at the time of his death. The Kniekerbocker Press, which prints the Putnam publications, was under his management as president. He was a member of the New York Typothetæ and of the Society of Mechanics and Tradesmen, New York. "Authors and Publishers" came from his pen in 1890, and "A Norwegian Ramble" in 1902.

A new study of "Maurice Maeterlinek: Poet and Philosopher" has been written by Miss Maedonald Clark, a distinguished student of Edinburgh University, who has specialized in the literature of the Low Countries. M. Maeterlinek has written in highest praise of the work, and bears testimony with no little surprise to the ingenious synthesis which it develops. His characteristic modesty in this respect is shown in the following sentences from his letter: "The writer seems to believe, with only too much indulgence, that from the first day, from the first book of my writing, I had my way traced out before me, and that I knew what I was going to say, what I meant to do; when — like every sincere man who is only groping his way — I do not know even to-day." The book is to be published this month by Messrs. George Allen & Unwin, Ltd., of London.

John Edmands, the dean of American librarians and the originator of classification and numbering systems now in general use in libraries throughout the country, died at his home in Philadelphia on the 17th inst. He was ninety-five years old. Mr. Edmands was born in Framingham, Mass, and was graduated from Yale University in 1847. In 1848-51 he attended the Yale Divinity School, in the meanwhile teaching school. He entered on library work in 1845, when he took charge of the library of the College Society of Brothers in Unity. Mr. Edmands continued in library work until 1901, when he became Librarian Emeritus of the Mercantile Library in Philadelphia, his total service covering fifty-six years. From 1851 to 1856 he was in charge of the Yale College Library, and then went to the Mercantile Library, where he stayed for forty-five years. He is the author of several bibliographies.

A considerable number of Belgium's most distinguished writers and artists, now refugees in England, have coöperated in the production of a noteworthy volume which the John Lane Co. announces under the title, "A Book of Belgium's Gratitude." The work is being issued under the highest authority. His Majesty King Albert is the patron; His Excellency M. Paul Hymans, Belgian Minister in London, is the president, and MM. Emile Cammaerts, Emile Claus, Henri Davignon, Jules Destree, Paul Lambotte, Caron Moncheur, and Chevalier E. Carton de Wiart are members of the Committee of Publication. The book will be printed in French and English, and the list of translators will include many well-known English names. Mr. W. J. Locke has consented to act as Translation Editor. The profits from the publication are to be placed at the disposal of Queen Mary of England.

Charles Frederick Holder, author and naturalist, died at his home in Pasadena, Calif., on the 10th inst., in his sixty-fifth year. He was born in Lynn, Mass., and received his education at the U. S. Naval Academy, and at the Friends' School in Providence. From 1871 to 1875 he was assistant curator of zoölogy in the American Museum of Natural History, and later he occupied the chair of zoölogy at Throop University in Pasa-Always an enthusiastic fisherman, Dr. Holder founded the Tuna Club of Catalina Island, and was a member of leading fishing clubs throughout the world. He was the author of many books, and was regarded as one of the foremost marine authorities in the world. Among the best known of his works are "Elements of Zoölogy," "Marvels of Animal Life," "The Ivory King," "Living Lights," "A Strange Company," "A Frozen Dragon," "Louis Agassiz, His Life," "Life of Charles Darwin," "Along the Florida Reef," "The Treasure Divers," "Stories of Animal Life," "Big Game Fishes of the United States," "The Lower Animals," "Fishes and Ref. States," "The Lower Animals," "Fishes and Reptiles," "Hand Book to Submarine Gardens," "The Log of a Sea Angler," "Big Game at Sea," "Marine Animals of the Pacific Coast," "The Ocean." and "Angling Adventures around the World."

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#### LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

[The following list, containing 158 titles, includes books seried by THE DIAL since its last issue.]

#### BIOGRAPHY AND REMINISCENCES.

Roscoe Thayer. In 2 volumes, illustrated in photogravure, etc., 8vo. Houghton Mifflin Co. 15. net.

Haven Putnam, Litt.D. With photogravure portrait, large 8vo. 492 pages. G. P. Putnam's Sons. \$2. net.

Childhood. By Marin Gorky. Thistoney.

Sons. \$2. net.

By Childhood. By Maxim Gorky. Illustrated, 8vo, 374 pages. Century Co. \$2. net.

In the Pootsteps of Napoleon: His Life and Famous Scenes. By James Morgan. Illustrated, 8vo, 524 pages. Macmillan Co. \$2.50 net.

George Washington: Farmer. By Paul Leland Haworth. Illustrated, 12mo, 236 pages. Bobbs-Merrill Co. \$1.50 net.

#### DISTORY.

High Lights of the French Revolution. By Hilaire Belloc. Illustrated in color, 8vo, 301 pages. Century Co. \$3. net. The Normans in European History. Homer Haskins. 8vo, 258 pages. Houghton

The Normans in European Homer Haskins. 8vo, 258 pages.

Homer Haskins. 8vo, 258 pages.

Mifflin Co. \$2. net.

Attila and His Huas. By Edward Hutton. 8vo, 228 pages. E. P. Dutton & Co. \$2. net.

Lincoln and Episodes of the Civil War. By William E. Doster. 8vo, 282 pages. G. P. Putnam's

Attila and His Hums. By Edward Hutton. 8vo, 228 pages. E. P. Dutton & Co. \$2. net. Lincoln and Episodes of the Civil War. By William E. Doster. 8vo, 282 pages. G. P. Putnam's Sons. \$1.50 net.

Prederick the Great and His Seven Years War. By Ronald Acott Hall, C.C.S. 12mo, 240 pages. E. P. Dutton & Co. \$1.50 net.

Collections of the Illinois State Historical Library. Youme X., The Critical Period, 1763-5, edited, with introduction and notes, by Clarence Walworth Alvord and Clarence Edwin Carter; Volume XII., The County Archives of the State of Illinois, by Theodore Calvin Pease. Each 8vo. Springfield: Illinois State Historical Library. Proceedings of the Massachusetts Historical Library. Proceedings of the Massachusetts Historical Society. Volume XLVIII. October, 1914—June, 1915. With photogravure portraits, large 8vo, 553 pages. Boston: Published by the Society.

#### GENERAL LITERATURE.

The Greatest of Literary Problems: The Authorship of the Shakespeare Works. By James Phinney Baxter. Illustrated, large 8vo, 686 pages. Houghton Mifflin Co. \$5. net. A Book of Preferences in Literature. By Eugene Mason. 15mo, 213 pages. E. P. Dutton & Co.

Mason. \$1.25 net.

guise Plots in Elizabethan Drama: A Study in Stage Tradition. By Victor Oscar Freeburg, Ph.D. 12mo, 241 pages. Columbia University Press.

#### NEW EDITIONS OF STANDARD LITERATURE.

NEW EDITIONS OF STANDARD LITERATURE.
Broaté Poemas: Selections from the Poetry of Charlotte, Emliy, Anne, and Branwell Bronté. Edited, with introduction, by Arthur C. Benson. With portraits, 16mo, 390 pages. G. P. Putnam's Sons. \$2. net.

Common Conditions. Edited by Tucker Brooke. Large 8vo, 90 pages. "Elizabethan Club Reprints." Yale University Press. \$2.50 net.

The Insulted and Injured. By Fyodor Dostoevsky; translated from the Russian by Constance Garnett. 12mo, 345 pages. Macmillan Co. \$1.50 net.

Crainquebille, Putois, Riquet, and Other Profitable Tales. By Anatole Prance; translated from the French by Winifred Stephens. 8vo, 238 pages. John Lane Co. \$1.75 net.

Panchon the Orieket (Fadette). By George Sand; translated from the French by Jane Minot Sedgwick. Illustrated, 12mo, 295 pages. "Mary Pickford Edition." Duffield & Co.

The Ecloques and Georgies of Virgil. Translated from the Latin by J. W. Mackall. Pocket edition; 16mo, 119 pages. Longmans, Green, & Co. 75 cts. net.

#### VERSE AND DRAMA.

The Faithful: A Tragedy in Three Acts. By John Massfield. 12mo, 170 pages. Macmillan Co. \$1.35 net.

hivers to the Sea. By Sara Teasdale. 12mo, 148
pages. Macmillan Co. \$1.25 net.

laterZew: Poems, chiefly Lyrical. By Geoffrey
Faber. 12mo, 111 pages. Houghton Mifflin Co.

The Porcupine: A Drama in Three Acts. By Edwin Arlington Robinson. 12mo, 152 pages. Macmillan Co. \$1.25 net.

Searchlights: A Play in Three Acts. By Horace Annesley Vachell. 12mo, 123 pages. George H. Doran Co. \$1. net.

Dreams and Dust: Poems. By Don Marquis. 12mo, 187 pages. Harper & Brothers. \$1.20 net.

The Quiet Courage, and Other Songs of the Unafraid. By Everard Jack Appleton. 12mo, 99 pages. Stewart & Kidd Co. \$1. net.

The Factories, with Other Lyrics. By Margaret Widdemer. 12mo, 160 pages. John C. Winston Co. \$1. net.

Ashes and Sparks. By Richard Wightman. With frontispiece, 12mo, 131 pages. Century Co. \$1.25 net.

L'Offrande Hérolque: Poems. By Nicolas Beauduin. 16mo, 104 pages. Paris: La Vie des Lettres. Paper.

#### FICTION.

The Fortunes of Garin. By Mary Johnston. With frontispiece in color, 12mo, 376 pages. Houghton Mifflin Co. \$1.40 net.
Old Delabole. By Eden Philipotts. 12mo, 428 pages. Macmillan Co. \$1.50 net.
The Sitrup Latch. By Sidney McCall. With frontispiece, 12mo, 315 pages. Little, Brown & Co.

tispiece, \$1.35 net. \$1.35 net.
The Lest Prince. By Frances Hodgson Burnett. Illustrated, 12mo, 414 pages. Century Co. \$1.35 net.
Beyond the Frontier: A Romance of Early Days in
the Middle West. By Randall Parrish. Illustrated, 12mo, 406 pages. A. C. McClurg & Co.
\$1.35 net.

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